MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know the respective qualifications of those who have already been appointed?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): One is a graduate and the rest, I think, are undergraduates.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Is it because.....

PRESIDENT: Mr. Padmanabhan, you have asked your questions once.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Sir, I am the person who has sent in the main question.

PRESIDENT: You must not argue with the Chair.

MR. K. M. KRISHNAN (*Ambalapuzha II*): May I know how many applications were received from Ezhava ladies?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There was one in 1931. I have not got the information in regard to the exact number of applications, but they are only few.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET—(*continued*).

PRESIDENT: The House will now continue the general discussion on the budget. The time-limit is fifteen minutes.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): I may be permitted to make a few observations on the budget. First, I would speak about the method of preparing the budget. I believe the data for preparing the budget must have been formulated by the Financial Secretary or the budget-making authority, whoever it may be, in consultation with the various departmental heads and other heads of institutions and other principal officers of the State who are the chief spending agencies. The reports or information submitted by the departmental heads of before being accepted by the budget-making authority as the basis the budget, I submit, may be sent for the consideration of an independent agency. By "an independent agency" I mean an agency having specialised knowledge in the subject of budget-making. The work of that agency will be to examine minutely the various recommendations contained in the reports submitted by the departmental heads or officers.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): May I know how that agency should be constituted?

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): I request that I may not be interrupted because the time allotted to me is only very little. If I find time after my speech is over, I will answer all the questions which the members ask, to the best of my ability. That independent agency should scrutinise and examine minutely the various recommendations contained in the reports of these departmental heads. If necessary, they should go out into the country and conduct personal and local nvestigations in the matter.

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MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member how this agency is to be constituted?

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): That question has already been put to me by the Financial Secretary and I have answered that I should not be interrupted.

That agency should go out into the country and make personal and local investigations into the matter and ascertain for themselves the particular needs of the locality and they should be convinced of the utility of those recommendations. In the light of the report submitted by that agency or that specialised body if the budget is prepared, I hope that it will be more useful and more beneficial to the country. So, what I submit is that there should be two agencies at work. Now, as I understand, there is only the governmental agency. To supplement it there should be a non-official independent specialised agency.

Next I may be permitted to add a word about the present method of the publication of the preliminary budget. The budget is, Sir, to me at least it seems to be, a very comprehensive compilation. To expect any reasonable or useful discussions or criticisms from this side of the House unless and until the copies of the preliminary budget are supplied to the members sufficiently early, is something which is rather impossible. We may not be in a position to give useful criticisms and suggestions on the budget unless we are supplied with copies of the budget sufficiently early. In the present case, I got my copy only some two or three days before the opening day. And in my humble view, if this preliminary budget is given to the Press sufficiently early, this House will be able to understand the public opinion on the matter; and the public opinion on the various topics contained in the budget will be of immense use to us in our discussions and in the final adaptation of the budget for the year.

Now, I will pass on to one or two other matters in the budget itself. Every budget has two sides, the revenue side and the expenditure side. The success of the budget depends upon showing a balance. Of course, the Financial Secretary has been able to show, as he styled it, a nominal surplus of Rupees 79,000 or so. The various items of expenditure in the budget should bear a definite proportion to one another and the total expenditure must have a definite relation to the total income. In this budget we find certain very abnormal items in the shape of special works such as the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme. Of course, certain members have been speaking about it here.

My friend, Mr. Elenkath, has been referring at length to the remission of tax. He confined his attention particularly to South Travancore. In view of the acute and evergrowing economic depression and also the devastation caused by the recent floods, I strongly recommend for the consideration of this House, a substantial reduction in the land tax throughout the State.

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Many of the paddy fields and most of the garden lands were being very badly damaged by the unprecedented floods of this year. The inevitable results of such devastation will naturally be failure of crops next year and consequent rise in the price of food-stuffs. Such a situation in conjunction with the present scarcity for money, may, I am afraid, create famine in the State. This is a matter in which we may benefit by the example set by the sister State of Cochin where, recently, there has been a reduction of land-tax by 12½ per cent. That is a matter which I just want to place for consideration by the House and by the Government.

There is another aspect which has been dealt with by my friend, Mr. Sambasiva Aiyar, namely the ornamental or luxurious side of the budget. Certainly I do not want to suggest that all the ornaments or luxuries which the State is now enjoying should be dispensed with all of a sudden; but I am against the addition of ornaments of latest design, for the time being at least, when the resources of the country, poor as they are, are not sufficient even to meet bare necessities. For instance the creation of an appointment of Warden of Games for the preservation of wild beasts in our forests is certainly a superfluity.

Similarly, I beg to draw the attention of the House to page 21 of the Financial Secretary's speech under the head "Stationery and Printing". There is the proposal in regard to the standardization of forms and stationery. A special officer with a temporary staff was appointed for that purpose early this year; and the Financial Secretary says that the work has not been completed yet and that, therefore, the office should continue for another year, namely 1109, and provision is made in the budget for such extension. I also find, in the Financial Secretary's speech, a proposal to appoint a central agency, in the Secretariat, to exercise effective control in the issue of stationery. A sum of Rs. 1,67,756 and odd is allotted for this newly created office, over and above the usual provision of Rs. 1,69,183 for stationery articles.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I may correct the member; I am not interrupting him; the sum of Rs. 1,67,756, that the member now refers to is intended for the purchase of stationery.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): I beg the member's pardon I am mistaken.

In the case of the special officer and staff, so far as I am able to gather, till now, the Stationery Department was doing the work of keeping the stationery and of distributing it to the various departments and the press. Therefore I do not see the necessity for the creation of a special officer with special staff for doing the work which was hitherto being done by the Stationery Department. My humble submission is that the officers of the Stationery Department must be made to do it. If they are not able to do it, their services must be dispensed with and more competent men appointed instead. I am at a loss to

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[Mr. K. Padmanabhan.]

understand the object of this ingenious invention. It is creating a new office for its own sake. This practice of displaying ingenuity by creating imaginary offices should in my humble view, be deprecated.

Another sickening feature of the budget -it is not particular to the budget now before the House; it has been rather a recurring evil—is the provision for a series of Personal Assistants, experts and such other appointments. The Education Department alone has not less than four Personal Assistants. The Director of Public Instruction has a Personal Assistant besides a Manager and a Head Clerk, all of whom do more or less the same kind of work, namely, of analysing the subject-matter of files and submitting drafts of notes to the Director. The two Inspectors, the Inspector of English Schools, and the Inspector of vernacular schools, have each a Personal Assistant. The Inspectress of Girls' Schools also has a Personal Assistant. So the four controlling officers of the department have each a Personal Assistant to assist them in their work, or, to be more accurate, to control these controlling officers.

In regard to these experts also, the Leather Expert, the Textile Expert, and others, I am at a loss to know what exactly is the useful kind of work these officers are turning out. With regard to the Tanning Expert, the Financial Secretary says the industry is still in an experimental stage. It is nearly five years since that branch of the Industries Department has been working, and it is really surprising to note that it is in an experimental stage even now.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): I will resume my seat, Sir, with the request that some remission of land tax may be allowed and that ornamentation, luxuries and creation of new offices may be postponed for more prosperous days, and that some modification in the method of formulating the data for the preliminary budget and its publication may be made in the light of the observations made by me.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): I regret I cannot congratulate the Financial Secretary on the budget he has presented to us. It is true that it is a nominally surplus budget. But, if we go deep into it, we will see that the nominal surplus of Rs. 79,000, has been obtained by actually starving the nation—developing departments; and, after all, this nominal surplus is only a forecast. When we obtained the actuals ultimately, we may perhaps find that it is really a deficit budget. We are, as is well-known, in the hard grips of a great economic strain. There is a serious trade depression. The forecasts in land revenue, excise and other departments may unexpectedly result in deficit. Still, we may take it that, considering the present circumstances, a fairly satisfactory budget has been presented to us

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Sir, I wish to make some general observations with specific reference to some of the important departments of Government. My main complaint is with regard to the administration of justice. There is very long delay in the admininistration of justice in the State, so much so that the fruits of decree ultimately become of little use to the litigant. As for criminal cases, in British India and in Cochin, for instance, we do not find a single criminal case pending beyond six or seven months whereas, in Travancore, even sessions cases remain pending for more than a year. To put it very moderately it is really bad and certainly not at all satisfactory or creditable to the administration of the State.

Then, Sir, the kind of top-heavy administration that we now have must certainly go. We have got a series of fat-salaried officers at the top with very poor half-starving menials, and subordinates at the bottom. Sir, the average villagers in Travancore, the people in the country parts, actually come into contact with *proverthikars*, accountants, excise peons, police constables and other petty officials. When such low-paid subordinates are half-starving, it is but natural that there is scope for corruption and oppression in the country. This state of affairs ought to go, and every officer of Government should have at least a minimum decent amount to enable him to live an honest life. Take the case of the peons in the Anchal Department, the poor Anchal peon, the friend of rich and poor alike, there is none to plead for him, none so good as to do him reverence, as it were. How can these low paid men rear up children, give them decent education, and what can the state expect from these children, who are to be the future citizens of our country. How can we expect anybody to live an honest living with the magnificent salary of seven or eight rupees a month? How can we expect the multitude of these officers to do honest and sincere work for the uplift of the country. It is really bad economy and bad statesmanship to allow such a state of things to continue; and public interests will suffer in the long run.

Then, Sir, one of the principal sources of State revenue at present is Excise, which certainly is an immoral kind of revenue. As years roll by, Government will find it increasingly difficult to resist the tide of public opinion against the excise revenue. For a proper administration of the State and for progressive administration, an increasing revenue is certainly necessary; and in the days to come there will always be incessant calls on the State exchequer. It is therefore high time that the economic possibilities of Travancore are explored and exploited. Our State is pregnant with economic possibilities. Only, Government must take courage in both hands and formulate and immediately take up a five-year or ten-year constructive plan as they have done in Hyderabad and Mysore. Sir, what is the average income of a Travancorean? It is two annas per diem. How can we expect a person with this glorious income of two annas per diem to be a useful citizen of the State? We have, therefore, to improve the economic condition of the State.

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[Mr. Edavanatt S. Padmanabha Menon.]

It is the paramount concern of the State as well as the biggest problem for the citizen. Representatives of the people have to be taken into the confidence of the Government and a constructive and bold policy has to be resorted to. What is the present lot of the ryots in this country? Sir, our present Agricultural and Industrial Departments are ornamental departments without any practical value to the average villager. Scientific method of cultivaion is not withhin the reach of the average cultivator. Real results of scientific investigations should be brought home to the villager. If only it increases his production he believes in it. The average villager has no abstract enthusiasm for the methods of science. The whole department has to be overhauled and re-organised There should be agricuitural village units under an Official of the Agricultural Department and prominent villagers of the locality. They should combine and harmoniously work together. Sir, it is highly necessary that a careful and detailed soil-survey should be effectedin this country and the whole State should be divided into various groups according to the fertility of the Soil and the future possibilities of production. Then again, Sir, there is the all-important question of cattle rearing, pasture lands and the fodder-problem, important problems, which are engaging the serious attention of statesmen all over the civilized countries. They should receive the serious attention of our Durbar. These problems have ultimately to be solved. The present Agricultural Department is thoroughly ill-equipped to tackle such serious problems. It has to be overhauled and substantial sums of money should be allotted freely for the Agricultural and Industrial Departments. Take for instance the industrial problem. The artisan is not able to find a market for his products. Our country is dumped with foreign goods. The artisan is not in a position to keep pace with the modern competition. He has not the necessary technical education for the same. What ability he retains of herditary skill, is rendered useless because of our highly literary education. We witness before us a huge waste of intellect and time in the modern educational system. There is the big question of unemployment both among the educated and the uneducated. All persons are being trained to equip themselves freely to make English speeches and to become trained and efficient clerks. But the public service demands only a very small number of them to be entertained to work the machinery of Government. What are we to do with the ever increasing unemployment of educated men? How can we face the future with confidence without providing money for industrial productive works. We have a huge discontented population, unemployed set, who have attained literary education, but are ill-equipped to face the competiton of life. After all we often educate our childran not because there is magic charm attached to education but as an equipment to face the problem of life, for the formation of real character and to be good citizens both to the State and to the Society. Sir, my submission is that the principle underlying the present system of education should undergo a fundamental change for the better. In

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this connection, I have to congratulate the Government for having appointed Mr. Statham to go into the whole question. He is really one of the experts on education we could obtain in South India.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Does the member congratulate Government for giving him Rs. 2,100 as salary per mensem?

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): I will willingly vote for more if we could get real experts. He can make valuable recommendations. I will vote even Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 10,000 if we could get real experts. We can expect such people after making careful and detailed investigations to make substantial and constructive proposals which, if carried out, will be paying to the State in the long run. So I am prepared to vote even for more money. My only request is that the Statham report should not share the usual fate of other reports.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Does the member know the contents of the Statham report?

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): No. But I know that it will contain constructive ideas, which if accepted, will be to the good of the country. Of course, an opportunity must be given for the whole question to be discussed on the floor of this House. The representatives of the people should be taken into the confidence of Government. What we expect is that after mature thought Government must accept the recommendation and immediate steps be taken to carry them into effect.

Sir, I know that high questions of policy are more frequently discussed on the floor of this House with appropriateness than local problems. But coming as I do from a taluk which is systematically neglected by Government, Shertalai, I have to bring to the notice of the Government some of the pressing problems of the locality. We see on a perusal of the budget that lakhs of money are being allotted for luxuries in the Capital and other parts of the country. I have absolutely no grudge against that. But I say with all the emphasis I could command that the two lakhs of people at Shertala should not be systematically neglected in this fashion. Our people are suffering from diseases like elephantiasis, tuberculosis and Hookworm, some of the worst diseases in the world. Efficient officers are afraid to come to Shertala because of the most unhygienic condition of the taluk. Unfortunately, we have no big officials to see that any improvement is made in the locality or some minor roads at least are constructed in the locality. Shertala is backward in education and some of the young men who are B. A's and B. L's. happened to enter the political arena rather late in the day. I claim that my constituency should have a special health unit. The people there are subject to diseases like elephantiasis and leprosy. A few years back, when the late Mr. Watts was Dewan and Mr. Vipan was the Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department, they held an informal conference of the representatives of Shertala and a constructive scheme covering about twenty cross-roads and cross canals was agreed upon for connecting the Alleppey-Aroor road.

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[Mr. Edavanatt S. Padmanabha Menon.]

To the best of my knowledge I think that proceedings were written departmentally and a recommendation was made by the then Chief Engineer to the Government, that each road should be taken up in the order of urgency and the idea was to allot each year Rs. 50,000 for the fruition of this scheme. Shertala is a backward taluk and I request that the constructive scheme brought forward by the then Chief Engineer should be seriously and earnestly taken in hand by Government.

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): As representing the Industry and Commerce constituency South I have to make a few observations. Trade is dull and industry is nowhere. The only consolation is that agriculture is worse off.

The grievance I have to make against the Financial Secretary is that his speech is not sufficiently informative. He is not facing the music. When we consider the present financial situation of the country it is something painful. Taking agriculture, we find that rural indebtedness is so terrifying. We find from the Banking Enquiry Committee Report that rural indebtedness was estimated to be about Rs. 25 crores. In the second report, the Economic Depression Committee Report, they came to the conclusion that it will have to be placed at Rs. 40 crores and the Census Commissioner has now placed it at Rs 20 crores. There is absolutely no remedy suggested anywhere in the speech of the Financial Secretary as regards this huge indebtedness. Now there is a talk of what is called 'balancing the budget." That is a technical expression which means that ways and means must first of all be found for satisfying both the external and internal debts of the country and then expenditure budgetted for. Then only can we say that the budget has been balanced. Absolutely no provision has been made for this agricultural rural indebtedness of anything between Rs. 20 and 40 crores. The Royal Commission on Agriculture reported, before 1928, that is before the economic depression took place, which happened only at the beginning of the last quarter of 1929, that the solution of this rural indebtedness lay in the Co-operative movement and the Land Mortagage Bank. What has happened to the Co-operative movement and what is going to happen to the Land Mortgage Bank, I am not going to foretell now because the Co-operative Movement is being investigated by a committee. But it is pretty well-known that the movement has failed. According to me, Sir, it was very bad advice which was given. If I were not a member for Commerce and Industry I would have upheld that advice. Coming to the Travancore communal question, we find from the Census Report for 1931 that there are only two communities in the State which are sticking to agriculture for what it is worth. These two communities are the Nairs and the Vellalas. I have the privilege to belong to the Vellala community and I speak about them. I say this burden of Rs. 40 or 25 crores will have to be taken up by this agricultural community also *i.e.*,

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the Vellalas, and I think the Nairs also. When we speak of the Vellalas as agriculturists the learned Census Commissioner has also observed that the Vellala agriculturist is above handling a plough. He might possess a small piece of land but he requires others to cultivate the land for him.

That means he is a gentleman farmer, to use the expression of the Census Commissioner. But the agriculturist, the actual cultivator, is somebody else who is of a different caste. With these two contingencies before us there is the report of the Unemployment Committee which has made the observation that the best brains of the country have been drawn into the Public Service. Therefore, there is the worker who actually cultivates, the gentleman farmer who owns the lands among the Vellalas. I believe it is applicable to other communities also, but I am speaking only about the Vellala community. There is on the one hand the agriculturist with an indebtedness of 40 crores of rupees. His best brains are taken away to the Public Service. Actual cultivation is undertaken by others and not by Vellalas and there remains the gentleman farmer. That is the agriculturists' situation in the country. What the Royal Commission have suggested for the benefit of agriculturists is the organisation of the co-operative movement. It was a movement which came to be started in opposition to Joint Stock and Indigenous Banking. It is directly opposed to Joint Stock Banking itself. This is evident from the report of the Banking Enquiry Committee itself. It was formed for the purpose of assisting agriculture. The co-operative movement is of course intended to assist agriculture. What assistance could be rendered by the co-operative movement with this huge indebtedness on the part of the agriculturists, there is no knowing. As a matter of fact, the main grievance against the co-operative banking system is, that it is there for the purpose of giving cheap credit to the agriculturists. As a matter of fact, it is clear that the interest charged and very often charged on a defaulter comes up to 15¾ per cent. It was for the purpose of sending away the village moneylender who advanced money at 12 per cent. interest, these people came for assisting the agriculturists, and the result is, that almost all credit societies are unable to make any progress whatsoever. They are in a position only to get back the lands from the agriculturists which means the suicide of the co-operative movement. Therefore we are back again in the same position that there is no relief whatsoever as regards rural indebtedness.

Coming back to trade, Sir, the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee stated that Burma was the granary for Travancore. There was a time and not very long ago when Nanjinad was the granary of Travancore; and Kuttanad also. Whatever it is, that is a very small thing for the trade of the country. Trade, Sir, is mainly in the hands of others who are not Travancoreans. Another point is that the very idea of taking to trade is against the very genius of the community of the country. They treat it with contempt. They are under the impression that industry and trade are something which could not be touched.

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[Mr. P. Chidambaram Pillai.]

They would go in for public service. As I said at the outset, the Unemployment Committee have stated that all the brainiest people go in for public service and the gentlemen farmers are sticking on there. The difficulty is, entry into the public service is becoming more and more difficult for the Vellalas. Of course, a Vellala can continue as a gentleman farmer. That is the present economic position of the country. The same report also observes that it is not the primary aim of the Government to take to economic development. That is only a subsidiary aim. The economic development of the country is only a subsidiary aim on the part of the Government, that is to say, the Government is run with an "agricultural bids". Therefore, when the administration is carried on by means of an industry—I am using the word industry with reference to agriculture only—which is on its last legs, I take it no industry can be run in Travancore with a debt of some 40 or 50 crores as rural indebtedness just now stands. That means agriculture is bankrupt and the people who follow agriculture are also bankrupt. The same is the fate of the industry. Any administration, which has got to live from a resource based on agriculture, must be in a bankrupt position; or rather the administration has to be in the position of the Official Receiver. I am using a legal expression with which I am familiar. According to judicial decisions, an Official Receiver is a representative of the Court, a representative of the creditor, a representative of the debtor as well. In the administration of today, of course, the analogy of the Official Receiver is complete.

Then, as regards the budget itself, Sir I have not become familiar with it. For the Financial Secretary or for that matter the Income Tax Commissioner himself is not familiar with the accounts of the ordinary merchants upon which income tax is levied. There is not an officer in the Government service who knows the accounts of an ordinary merchant. The merchant owns a car or has servants under him; these items rather than his accounts are taken into account and his income tax assessed. Accounting principles for income tax purposes are entirely different and no income tax is levied on systematic principles. I may honestly say at present moment that I cannot get at the figures given in the budget. They are a mystery to me and it is perplexing. But what I fail to see in the budget is, there is no guiding principle anywhere indicated. Of course, it is just like the budget of the Official Receiver who says that so much has to be realised and so much to be spent. I could understand and even sympathise with the Financial Secretary. But the difficulty is, we do not know what will happen tomorrow. Unless one is an optimist along with the Financial Secretary I cannot say what all might happen tomorrow. Who knows that matters may not become worse next year? What guarantee is there? The trouble began four years ago; there is no indication that things are getting better. Coming to expenditure, I am not in favour of cutting down expenses; that is a bad programme. The only depressed community in the State are the people. The officers are in comfort and luxury. The popular view is that "we must depress them also." I don't agree with that, because, it may lead to inefficiency. As a matter of fact

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I may say honestly, that we have the very best men in the service, comparatively speaking, and they are very poorly paid now. There is no disputing that. On a comparison with the salaries paid in other places salaries obtaining in Travancore are certainly very low. Somehow or other, we have got the best men in the service. They are devoting their energies also for the improvement of the country. But the times are abnormal; we are passing through difficult times and all these difficulties have to be got over by means of co-operation between officials and non-officials.

As regards trade itself, there are certain things which cannot be discussed here; of course, they are trade secrets like freights and subsidies. I stated at the outset that it was the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee who reported that Burma is granary of Travancore. It is a mistake. We are placed in much the same predicament as Ceylon. It is importing 12 crores worth of rice and paddy from British India, mainly from Tanjore. They would not have done it if the price of Burma paddy and rice were cheaper than Tanjore rice and paddy. The freight charges from Burma say, from Rangoon, is one rupee per sack with a rebate of two annas. That comes to about 14 annas a bag. For a bag of paddy from Tanjore to Trivandrum, the freight is also about one rupee. When we take the distance between Burma and Trivandrum and that between Tanjore and Trivandrum, the former is about 1,300 miles and the latter about 200 miles. Paddy from Burma is not taken on the wireless. It is carried only by the steamers which may be taken to consume of course seven times the quantity of coal that is consumed by the Railway. There are certain things which have to be understood viz., the question of freight reduction, for instance. There is no meaning in the Railway system charging one rupee for a bag for such a short distance and shipping system charging less for a longer distance. There is a lot of difference between a steamer carrying things from a long distance and that of a train. Freight charges in the former will be very much less than the freight charges under the railway.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): The Financial Secretary has delivered, probably the longest speech that has ever been delivered by the Financial Secretary to the Legislature in the country. I must congratulate him for delivering such a long speech without referring to the most important matter for which we searched in the whole speech of the Financial Secretary from beginning to end. Sir, it is impossible to any person residing in Travancore and knowing the conditions which are at present prevailing here, not to refer to the economic depression prevailing in the country. The Financial Secretary was addressing both the Chambers the other day and probably he thought that he should not mar the auspicious occasion by referring to unhappy incidents. It was his solemn duty to have told the House that the Government are fully aware of the real conditions prevailing in the country and that they are making an earnest attempt to solve those difficulties. My friend, Mr. Chidambaram Pillai, has already

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[Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan.]

referred to the rural indebtedness of the country. He said that according to the Banking Enquiry Committee Report, the indebtedness is about 25 crores of rupees. That was prepared about 4 years ago. When I compared the statistics of 1103 and 1107 I found that in the annual export value of our chief exports *viz.*. copra, rubber, tea and pepper alone there is a fall of about 5 crores of rupees in the course of four years. In this calculation I have taken the value of copra on the basis of the market price and not on the basis of the Tariff value as in the statistics of the Government. That means that in addition to the 12 or 15 per cent. interest that the rural population is bound to pay on the debt of 25 crores of rupees their indebtedness is increasing by about 5 crores per annum. Thus their indebtedness is going up by about 8 crores per annum. The Financial Secretary has not cared to tackle that problem. He must have told the House what the Government intend to do to meet the situation. In order to give some relief to the inhabitants of this country, to reduce the indebtedness of the people and to reduce unemployment, a number of committees have been appointed, such as the Unemployment Committee, the Banking Enquiry Committee, the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee, the Minor Irrigation Committee and many others. These Committees have submitted their reports. A lot of public money has been spent upon those reports. Am I to understand that the Financial Secretary does not say even a word about the reports because he thinks that the recommendations of those Committees have been carried out by Government, or is it because they have ruled out those recommendations and stated that they need not be acted upon? If they do like this in regard to expert committees, then I would say that they need not spend any money on such committees as the Statham Committee, the Public Service Committee the Devadhar Committee and the Temple Entry Committee. Sir, the Unemployment Committee itself suggested that a land colonisation scheme must be drawn up and lands should be given to the educated and uneducated in a certain proportion. I asked in the Legislative Council on the 15th August 1929 whether a land colonisation scheme which was published in the Gazette was brought into effect. Then I was told that the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries was asked to submit a new scheme which could be practically worked. The answer was given on the 15th August 1929, and now four years have lapsed. I ask what has become of that Colonisation Scheme. The Unemployment Committee suggested that an unemployment bureau may be started to give relief to the unemployed. Nothing was done with regard to that also. The Banking Enquiry Committee and all other Committees stated that the Government must spend more money upon the development of communications in order to enable the producer to sell his things at the maximum prices obtainable. I think the Government was carrying on the policy till 1104. In order to enable the people's representatives to have an effective voice in the development of communications, Government then appointed a Road Board also. I do not know what has become of the Road Board, which was then brought into being. Some representatives were also elected to the Board. I do

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not know whether they ever met. If we refer to the amount that is spent upon these communications, we find that in 1104 the amount spent on original works, communications, was 16·22 lakhs while for 1109 the budget allotment is 3·40 lakhs. It has been reduced by more than 75 per cent. The representatives of the people were strenuously arguing in the Legislative Council and the Assembly that there is a lot of unemployment in the State, that the estate owners are not able to maintain their coolies who are coming into the country parts, and that therefore Government must provide employment for them by making liberal allotments for communications. The result is that for original works under communications, Government have allotted only 3·40 lakhs while in 1104, it was 16·22 lakhs. Even if we scrutinise the particular items in the P. W D. budget say, for instance, roads, we find that there are 49 roads of which authority for construction has been given only for 10 roads, while estimates have not been prepared for 17 roads. I know from practical experience that with regard to those works for which estimates have not been prepared, those works will not be carried out, and the amount allotted will be diverted. If we compare the Budget for 1 09 with the budgets for previous years, we find that a number of works which have been included in a particular year are omitted next year. This haphazard manner of preparing the budget should be very strongly protested against by this House. We have 1·75 lakhs set apart for buildings. Of these, Rs. 50,000 is set apart for a leper asylum in Central Travancore. I wish to know why the Government have allotted Rs. 50,000 out of Rs. 1.75 lakhs for buildings for a leper colony. I wish to know whether it is in the interest of the patients of the asylum at Oolampara that this proposal was made, or whether there was any requisition from the public that the leper asylum should be shifted from here. I do not see anything about this stated in the Popular Assembly or in the Legislative Council. On the other hand I know there has been strong and persistent agitation against it and a number of deputations have waited upon the Dewan and a big *jatha* also went up to the Dewan praying that the leper asylum should not be shifted to a particular place.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : Was there any representation that the asylum should be shifted from the present place ?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : There was no representation that it should be shifted. When we have got a number of items of works for which requisition has been made, I do not know why Government choose a work for which there has been no requisition. It is comparatively a large item. We find that Rs. 62,000 has been allotted for converting certain bungalows into hotels and for improving T. B's. But there is no allotment for buildings for which there is necessity and for which large amounts have been already spent.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*) : What are those works ?

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): There is a Girls' school at Mavelikara, the foundation for which was laid at a cost of thousands of rupees.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): May I know when the foundation for that building was laid?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Four or five years ago. That is how the Government have been developing communications in the country and allotting funds for the roads and buildings.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There is a provision of 2 lakhs under the Road Development Fund.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I will refer to that also. With regard to the particular fund to which the learned Financial Secretary has been drawing my attention, I wish to say a word. I am glad he has drawn my attention to that. More than 2 lakhs of rupees has been allotted under a separate item called the Road Development Fund. If one looks into the Budget, one will clearly see that Government have no clear ideas about that. It was on the recommendation of the Road Development Committee of British India, presided over by Mr. Jayakar, that this fund was constituted and they suggested that it would be better for the States to borrow funds on the security of this Fund for carrying on big schemes. I could understand if the funds are allotted for the opening of trunk roads, say connecting Alleppey with the main central road along the shorter route. It is stated 30,000 rupees has been allotted for the improvement of the Quilon-Aroor road, and Rs. 30,000 for another road, etc. But that is not the manner in which the allotment has to be made. What I have to say is that if the Financial Secretary had more carefully considered the recommendation of the Road Development Committee, a constructive suggestion would have been made by him and he would have seen that the allotment was used for opening a large number of trunk roads. Moreover even that Committee says that this amount should not be taken into consideration for reducing the usual allotments in the Budget. This must be considered as an additional allotment. It must not be taken as an occasion for cutting down the P. W. D. Budget.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Is not the allotment for next year higher than the allotment for the current year?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Excluding the Road Development Fund, it is not higher for new works—Communications.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It is higher.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): The Financial Secretary may think so. Anyhow 3·4 is certainly less than 16·22. I know that from 1097 onwards representations have been made and Resolutions have been passed in Legislative Council for the construction and improvement of Irrigation Works. After a number of resolutions and adjournment motions had been passed in this House, Government

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appointed a Committee. That committee consisted of five important officials in the State including the Land Revenue Commissioner, the Chief Engineer, the Financial Secretary and the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil. They have made very modest recommendations. The main recommendations were that 5 lakhs may be allotted every year for irrigation and that a separate section for Irrigation may be constituted under P. W. D. That was submitted about 21 months ago. The Financial Secretary does not say what has been done on the recommendations of that Committee? On the other hand we find that allotment for protective irrigation original works has been halved. In 1105 it was two lakhs and this year it is a lakh and six thousand. What I am suggesting is that Government have not been considering the important recommendations of these committees. They have ignored and even gone against those recommendations. Now, Sir, from what has been stated by me and the previous speakers about the real conditions prevailing in the country, it will be seen that the people are in very great difficulties. This is the occasion for the Government to grant at least some temporary relief by remission of taxes. A resolution was passed in the Legislative Council that the export duty on the produce of the coconut tree should be abolished.

The Financial Secretary should have said as to what has been done on that recommendation. That resolution was carried by the non-officials voting as a whole. I believe that no member from the non-official side opposed that. The Financial Secretary could have either abolished the duty or reduced the tariff values.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): I want to know for information whether the Financial Secretary has any power of imposing or abolishing taxes?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): The Government has got power for abolishing export duty.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): I ask whether the Financial Secretary has power.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Here, the Financial Secretary speaks on behalf of Government and the Financial Secretary is the person who is bound to hear all these criticisms and answer them.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): Sir, the Budget presented by the Financial Secretary cannot be said to be satisfactory owing to a variety of reasons. The Financial Secretary appears to have tried his level best to balance the budget and to show a nominal surplus of Rs. 79,000 as if a surplus budget is the criterion of the prosperity of the State and of the soundness of its financial position. I find that this is the case not only of the budget before the House but also of the budgets of previous years. I am at a loss to know the particular object in view in making continuous attempts at drawing up surplus budgets.

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[Mr. N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib.]

The anticipations of the Financial Secretary have never been fulfilled for the last 3 or 4 years both in regard to revenue and expenditure. Of course, I concede that these were years of economic depression and financial stringency. But we should have left a wide margin for the variations due to the depression and stringency, and so framed our estimates with a clearer and more accurate financial vision as not to affect our expectations to any very great extent. The year 1106 was expected, as usual, to leave a surplus of Rs. 2 lakhs and odd out of a total estimated revenue of Rs. 250 lakhs. Similar variations are noticeable in regard to expenditure also. For the year 1107 the Financial Secretary estimated for a revenue of Rs. 232 lakhs and for a surplus of Rs. 54,000. That year also would have closed with a deficit of about Rs. 10 lakhs but for the windfall of about the same amount as a result of our participation in the Cochin Habour Scheme. The current year and the next year also are expected to result in surpluses, of course, only with the receipts from the Cochin Harbour and the Central Road Development Fund (petrol duty expected from the Government of India).

As regards the revenue for the coming year, it is somewhat gratifying to note that no fresh imposts are to be levied on the mass of the people, while a substantial sum of Rs. 14 lakhs is expected under Customs—Cochin Harbour Scheme.

Coming to the expenditure side of the Budget, the general features that require comment are the provision made for the preliminary work connected with the re-survey and re-settlement, the enhanced provision under General Administration, the staff of Game Warden, Industries and Stationery and Printing. It is stated that the special officer appointed in connection with the Re-settlement is entrusted with the preparation of the necessary Memorandum. The scope of the Memorandum is not known and highly technical principles of land tenure are supposed to be involved in the Re-settlement. I hope that the principles will be humane enough so as not to affect the already impoverished ryots of the land.

The provision made under General Administration includes allotments for the special officer for the Records and his staff. It appears that this special staff was working in the Records Office for the last so many years. It is not known when their special work will be over. Formerly this work was being carried on by the Stationery Department. At this rate there is no knowing when this special staff will come to an end. If the Medical, Sanitary and Public Health Departments can be amalgamated I ask in all earnestness why these three departments, the Stationery, the Central Printing Office and the English Records Office, also cannot be amalgamated.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : May I know whether the member is aware that there is no separate office as the Central Printing Office ?

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*) : A reference to the budget shows that there is an allotment made already for such an office for 1109

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MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know whether the member knows which agency does the function of controlling the issue of stationery at present in the Secretariat?

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): At present there is a special records office, there is the Stationery Department and there is also a special officer appointed for the standardisation of forms. My proposal is that these three offices should be amalgamated so that a substantial saving can be effected.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Is the member in favour of amalgamating the Medical and Sanitary Departments?

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): Yes. Such a proposal has been mentioned in the Financial Secretary's speech. If that can be done, why not these three offices be amalgamated? Is it not more efficient and effective? That is my question. Of course, if Government feel the necessity they can increase the staff. By all means they can make temporary appointments but not depute officers already in service and allow them to draw deputation allowance and thereby increase the expenditure by leaps and bounds. The present practice of deputation of officers and staff has to be completely deprecated.

Then there is the Department of Industries with its retinue of experts. No substantial good seems to have accrued to the State by the continuance of these experts. Still, additional funds are provided in the budget for the coming year. It is interesting to note that the present Director is energetic enough to start new innovations such as the sales depot, etc.

In this connection, I have to say a word regarding the tanneries industry. Simply because there is some defect somewhere there was a proposal some time ago to abolish the post of the Tanneries Expert. My submission is that the tanneries industry is capable of much more development than it is at present. Unless an expert is appointed to handle that matter carefully there is no possibility of that industry developing. It is high time that something is done in that direction. When provision was made in the Budget for the current year for the appointment of a Trade Agent in London it was hoped that the appointment would be soon made so that the interest of our trade may be safeguarded and the economic condition of the people bettered considerably. But as nothing was done in the matter the hope was not realised.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Is the member in favour of the appointment of a Trade Agent in London?

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): Yes.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Would it not be more profitable to have a Trade Agent in Bombay?

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): Government will have to decide as to the place.

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MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Would it not be desirable to have a Trade Agent in Japan and in America?

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): It may be desirable. If the provision is repeated in the next year, the choice of the Trade Agent must be so made that it would enure to the permanent good of the State.

In this connection, I have to lay special emphasis on the fact that the office of the Games Warden is absolutely unnecessary and superfluous. Hitherto we were getting on very well without a Games Protector or a Games Warden. Thus it will only be a mere waste if a new office is added. And it is only a luxury.

The P. W. portion of the Budget shows that a slight increase has been made in the provision for the next year when compared to that for the current year. Compared to the provision of the previous years the allotments for the next year cannot be said to be sufficient as any curtailment of the activities of the departments will seriously affect the communications and public improvement which are very important from the popular point of view.

Lastly, I have to point out that neither the budget presented by the Financial Secretary nor his speech shows any reference to effecting economies or retrenchments in expenditure. The Retrenchment Committee appointed by Government several months ago had recommended for a reduction of expenditure to the extent of about Rs. 10 lakhs.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): May I know whether the member has not received a copy of the G. O. issued on the subject and on the action taken by Government on the recommendations of the Committee?

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): I am going to point out that all the recommendations of the Committee have not been given effect to.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): My question was whether the member has not received a copy of the G. O.?

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): I have received a copy.

It was stated in the budget speech of the Financial Secretary last year that proposals to the extent of Rs. 4 lakhs and odd were pending with Government and as such some explanation should have been offered in regard to this. The question of salary cut seems to have been safely ignored while other States and British India have effected substantial cuts in the salaries of officers. It is highly necessary in the interests of the State that a similar cut should be effected in the salaries of the high officers here also. We are spending about 45 per cent. of the total revenues of the State on salaries and

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we are drawing frequently on our accumulated surpluses. A comparison of the figures for the last three years would show that there is a dwindling in the accumulated surplus every year and at this rate there is no knowing where this will strand us.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : I shall begin by congratulating the Financial Secretary on the very good fortune backing him during the last three years. Every year when the Budget is presented he promises that it would be a surplus budget and gives us some alarming accounts of what is to take place at the close of the year so that at the end of the year he might be on the safe side. He is alarmed that it would be a deficit budget, but at the end of the year it turns out to be a very well-balanced, not only well-balanced but a surplus budget. And I now find that it is in the nature of a trick and all this is due to certain manipulations. I would refer to these manipulations particularly because I find that it is a characteristic feature of all the budgets prepared by the Financial Secretary. In the first place, he under-estimates the probable income that is expected to be derived during the course of the year. He over-estimates the expenditure of the year and then allows funds to lapse on the pretext that funds are not available and lastly comes forward with an appropriation statement saying that funds have been diverted and that a large surplus is available.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Is it deliberate?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : It is not unconscious. (*Laughter*). The same feature appears to present itself in this year's budget also. But one point that I have to draw your attention to, Sir, is this—that it is modelled on certain very wrong principles, unconstitutional principles. The first principle to be kept in view when a budget is prepared is that the items of expenses and receipts have to be classified under proper and correct headings.

That has been said to be one of the important functions of the Financial Secretary. Under the new Regulation under which this Assembly is constituted, the funds allotted for State Charities should be available for discussion by this House and should be subject to the vote of this House. It would now appear that the amount, about Rs. 2,80,000, considered to constitute the provision for State Charities at the time of the new Legislative Reforms Regulation was passed, has disappeared altogether from that category, and has now found a place in a very convenient corner. Devaswoms are even today a prohibited subject so far as the voting on demands is concerned, and this sum of two hundred and eighty thousand rupees now makes its appearance amidst the inviolable group of deities who have a secure, convenient and comfortable corner under the head " Devaswoms ". This, I submit, is an extremely irregular method of depriving us of a privilege that has been conferred upon us by the Regulation. In the Royal Proclamation

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relating to Devaswoms it was expressly laid down that not less than forty per cent. of the general *ayacut* revenue of the State should be set apart for Devaswom Funds. It was also stipulated that a portion, of the remaining portion of the general *ayacut* revenue, shall be utilised for direction and control of Devaswom expenditure. The Devaswom charge on the general revenues is limited to the extent stated above. Now, if this sum of Rs. 2,80,000 is to form part of Devaswom funds, that will be an arrangement not contemplated by the Devaswom Proclamation, nay even against its express terms. Therefore, I submit that this re-grouping is unconstitutional.

Sir, the next point that I want to draw your attention to is this. It would appear that, in 1108, a sum of Rs. 3,000 was spent for the Revenue Settlement Officer; and that was done without placing the matter before the Legislative Council. Without the sanction of the Legislature, an officer has been appointed and a sum of Rs. 3,000 has been spent already. Under Land Revenue, a new sub-head has been now created, and a sum of Rs. 16,000 and odd appears to be allotted for Revenue Re-settlement. That again, Sir, is based upon a misconception. The Royal Proclamation of 1061 specifically provides in clause 1 Rule 30, that the Settlement shall be permanent for a period of thirty years, that after the completion of the Settlement, it shall be permanent for the next thirty years. I find from the Administration Report that the last Settlement was completed only in 1911, so that, till 1941, Government will not be justified in spending any money on a Revenue Settlement Officer. This is a clear violation of the Royal Proclamation on Revenue Settlement. The Settlement Officer and his staff will not cease their work of persecution, but will continue to pursue every one of us and harass and exact money out of our hands for generations. Therefore this is one of the gravest injustices done to us by the Financial Secretary.

A third irregularity that I have been able to find, in this connection, is the creation of a new office. In 1061, when the Settlement Proclamation was promulgated, the *Kandukrishi* or Home-farm lands were treated along with *pandarapattom* lands, and the revenue due from both were treated as, and brought under, *Ayacut* revenue; the income derived from *pandarapattom* lands and *Kandukrishi* lands was treated as *Ayacut* revenue due to the State. It will be seen from that that there was only one direct charge, that is, the collection of revenue. A willing and voluntary surrender was, therefore, made by the Sovereign so that the Sovereign might not be in possession of any land for his own purposes and that the general revenues of the State would be available for all his purposes. It will be found that, from that moment onwards, every year, as much money as was necessary was being taken for Panivagai, Palace, Royal Stables and such other items of expenditure for the Sovereign. Now, this arrangement is sought to be

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changed ; and I submit it will be inconsistent with the Royal Proclamation of 1061, and the benevolent act of Royal surrender so long acquiesced in.

There is also another high-handed and merciless action which I have been able to find from the Budget and to which I want to refer, namely, the attitude of the Government in regard to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. In fact, the Committee had made substantial suggestions. They suggested a cut in the salaries of officers. Government found that that was not necessary. The Committee also suggested that certain offices might be abolished. Government found that that too was not necessary. The Committee recommended that a few peons might be dispensed with, and the Government thought that that was a serious suggestion and accepted it. Similarly, in the case of travelling allowance also, perhaps because non-officials also are likely to be affected by it, the Government accepted the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee. In the same way, we recommended a reduction of the hill allowance, and the Government thought that, as that was a matter affecting mochees and peons, they would readily accept it.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): May I point out to the member that no reduction was effected in the hill allowance of menials? It is only the hill allowance of high-paid officers that was reduced.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : I am very thankful to the Financial Secretary for the information.

All that I wish to point out is that, as a result of all that the Government have been able to do in the direction of retrenchment, they were able to save only a paltry sum. And, what is it that the Government have done with the money thus saved? We recommended retrenchment in order that people might be helped.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*) : May I know whether the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee were unanimous?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): In almost all cases, the recommendation was unanimous; in one or two cases, dissenting minutes were recorded.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*) : May I know whether all unanimous recommendations were accepted by Government?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : The learned member will find from the report of the Committee that that has not been done. That is what I have been trying to emphasise.

What is it that the Government did with the small sum of money that they were able to save by accepting some of the suggestions made by the Retrenchment Committee? The salaries and allowances cut from low-paid menials were utilised for the payment to high-paid officers; so that the retrenchment sanctioned and given effect to by Government benefited officers drawing high salaries. Sir, I find that a Chief Engineer on Rs. 1,500 or Rs. 1,700 is to be appointed. I also

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find that a Warden of Games is to be appointed. There is also a proposal to appoint a Director of Education on Rs. 2,700 a month. I find that a Tunnel Engineer on Rs. 1,500 has already been appointed. Though the Medical Board, consisting of three officers, was abolished now a Darbar Physician has been appointed with two Deputy Darbar Physicians, and the net result of it is an additional expenditure of five or ten thousand rupees. What is it that the Government have done to the poor ryots, to the people who pay all this money to Government? Owing to the recent floods, several roads have been damaged and several bridges have been washed away, and crops have been devastated over vast areas. What is it that the Government have done for all these? Instead of helping the poor people, Government are trying to exercise all the coercive powers vested in them under the Revenue Recovery Regulation for the purpose of exacting the very last pie from the people. I find from the last year's Budget, that the level of income to Government has been kept up, not by direct means but by indirect and vicious means. The duty on salt has been enhanced as also the value of Anchal stamps. The duty on tobacco has also been increased. All this has been done, as I said, during this serious economic depression, for the purpose of creating and maintaining high-paid officers. What is the result of the deputation that waited upon the Dewan recently praying for a remission of tax? The Dewan is reported to have said that he would consider the question. I am sure what consideration is going to resulting in that the date of payment of kist may be postponed.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Just a minute, Sir. I have omitted, Sir, to congratulate the Government on one or two important steps that they have taken. After due consideration, they have been graciously pleased to start the Pallivasal Hydro-electric Scheme. Sir, I myself went round the place and I have discussed the question with experts. I gather that that will be a standing boon to the people of Travancore. I want to congratulate Government upon that. So also, in regard to the decision they have come to about the amalgamation of the Health Department and the Sanitary Department. That also has been calculated to better the condition of the people and also to effect a saving and to divert it on useful lines.

The assembly adjourned for lunch at 1'15 P. M. and met again at 2 P. M.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Sir, though I cannot congratulate the Financial Secretary on the presentation of the budget there may not be anything very substantial to find fault with him because from the real financial point of view there is no initiation of policy. But I do complain, Sir, with regard to the inordinate length of his speech, I do feel that he could have conveniently and with advantage curtailed considerable portions of his speech if he had taken care to omit certain details which we could freely gather from the budget presented to us. Sir, changes have occurred since the presentation of the budget by the Financial Secretary last year. We have

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been complaining time after time against the construction of the budget speech that it is a mere correlation of figures. It does not even make interesting reading. But that has not been listened to. Perhaps we cannot find fault with the Financial Secretary for not venturing on big schemes at a time of such financial stringency. On that point I am not going to find fault with him. He has presented a surplus budget. That surplus is illusory. It has not been created by careful economy of expenditure, but as a result of starving some of the nation building activities to a considerable extent. For a superficial reader, by a judicious jugglery of figures he has been able to show that some activities are going on in the State. But it will be found that the vital needs of the poor ryots in the villages has not been so carefully looked into. We find that the Retrenchment Committee, that has been appointed as a result of the impending calamity that was apprehended with regard to the finances of the State, making very moderate and very cautious reductions to the extent of Rs. 15 lakhs without loss of efficiency. The Government have accepted reduction to the extent of about 3·32 lakhs. They have rejected just the double of that sum *i. e*, Rs. 6·78 lakhs which the Retrenchment Committee has recommended and they are still at the stage of only considering about the rest of Rs. 5·09 lakhs. Of course we have got at least one example and that a clear example of such considerations. As I was running my eye through the list I found the revision of the pay of the Principal and Professors of the Law College. There was, I think, some recommendation by the Retrenchment Committee to reduce the already existing pay of the then Law College Principal. As a result of consideration, Government have thought it necessary, I do not know what are the reasons that weighed with them, to appreciably increase the salary without adequate reasons in my humble opinion. Is the result of the consideration of the Government regarding nearly rupees 5 lakhs and odd going to result in this way? Then I think this rupees 3 lakhs savings as a result of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee would also be wiped out and we would in the end find that after all there was no necessity for the labours, the time and energy spent by the Retrenchment Committee for balancing the resource of the State. Sir, I can understand that at a time of financial stringency Government not being able to carry on reproductive work or works for the benefit of the State as a whole. But it must be granted that such an attitude with regard to the inability of the Government can be justified only when the Government have limited the expenditure to the margin of efficiency and not until then. If Government have spent even a pie more than what is absolutely necessary for luxuries and other things which can afford to wait without serving the very necessities of the people such as communication, health and other activities such a position cannot be defended. This question cannot be looked on with equanimity. I find this as the fundamental defect of the budget as it is presented to us.

I will take this opportunity to make one or two suggestions with regard to the realisation of our railway revenue. I have come to know

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from my enquiries one instance and that will be an eye-opener with regard to the many instances for looking into our revenue from the railways. I understand that the Quilon Station Master's—I am subject to correction—pay is entered in the accounts as the pay of a first class Station Master. But really he is paid some where below Rs 75. I do not know whether Government have enquired into this matter and whether they have found out such tricks played by the Company in the accounts. This is a matter that has to be enquired into. That is one reason why when Mr. Asan asked about the auditing of the accounts we were very very much grieved to find that Government were merely accepting the audit statement given by the Government of India. They may not care for the paltry sum spent on account of the small bit of Railway in this State. It is high time that we look up to that. I think that we must make some attempts to force our views on this matter since we have sunk a big capital on a project which may not after all be for the use of the travelling public. We have incurred very heavy expenditure and our returns are very low. Under these circumstances it is up to the Government to approach the Government of India in all possible ways and get the controlling voice in the finances of the railway and thus diminish the loss. That is the matter which I wish to bring to the attention of the Government.

I must now congratulate the Government on their wisdom, though it has dawned rather late, to amalgamate the Sanitary and the Health departments for the proper co-ordination of the work of the Departments and for the discharge of proper functions which are necessary for the very existence of the State. They have found out at least now that it is necessary to have a controlling authority as that will effectively manage the department and enforce discipline and make the work more effective in every sense of the word. For that Government have to be congratulated. I wish the Government will do well to expedite the amalgamation because very serious and dangerous diseases are spreading so very rapidly and with such enormous speed though they might have been somewhat late in arriving at such decision for amalgamation.

Then I would add a word with regard to the Quilon Electric Supply Scheme. We are very glad that Government have provided for that. But I do not know what will be the implications of the expenditure for which the citizens of the Quilon Municipality are going to be much liable. I do not know whether the Quilon Electric Scheme will be a paying one in the sense that the Trivandrum Electric Scheme is a paying concern. From what I have been able to study I feel that the Trivandrum Electric Scheme has only a meagre profit and that only in the accounts. It looks as though it is a profitable concern because in the Municipal town of Trivandrum there are a large number of Government offices where energy is spent on such lavish scale and the charge per unit is so high. It is Government money that is turned as profit. I do not think Quilon is going to have such a large number of Government offices. I do not know how much the citizens of the Quilon Municipality have to pay for it. It must be brought to the notice of Government that the Quilon Municipality did not want the

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Government to undertake the work and do it. The Quilon Municipality had the courage to write to Government that they are prepared to take up the work on their own responsibility and that they will raise a loan to do the work. But Government, it seems in the interests of the actual rate-payer, undertook to supply the current cheaply and do the work themselves efficiently. If ultimately it is a gain to us I will be thankful to Government. But if we are losers in the transaction I cannot be thankful to Government.

With regard to the relief of flood damages, I do not think adequate amount has been provided for. I think Government will be compelled to provide a large amount for that.

The reports of the Divisional officers, I believe, might have reached the Government before the Financial Secretary got ready with his financial statements. I think the damage caused to crops in this year is phenomenal. Are we to understand from the silence of the Financial Secretary that Government have sided with him in not giving aid to the poor ryots? I do not believe that. The Government will be compelled to grant a substantial sum, as a measure of relief for the damages caused to the ryots. During the cut motions in the Land Revenue Department, I will dilate on these points and not now.

From the Budget, I understand, that a huge sum has been provided for the purchase of a car probably to be used by His Excellency the Viceroy during his tour in the country. I am not quite sure of this ; if there is going to be any visit of His Excellency, I think we should also be let known of the matter.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : Where is it stated in the Budget?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : There is a provision made for cars and chaffeurs under political expenses in the budget.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : That is the usual provision.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : So am I to understand from the Financial Secretary that there is going to be a visit of His Excellency?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : I have no information.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : I was expressing this, because, I thought that Government ought to have taken us into their confidence, if there is His Excellency's tour. If there is any amount and if that is a real surplus then that item has to be taken into account by us.

With regard to the Settlement operations, I have to offer a few remarks. They have been started and I wish to warn the Government sufficiently early, that, before they think of changing the principles of assessment, they have to consult the ryots and take their opinion. I have been able to understand, and everybody will be convinced if one studies the method of assessment here at present, which is one of the most scientific systems and it is most fair and equitable so far as the ryot is concerned. I apprehended from certain suggestions

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vaguely given by the Government in their G. O. and also from the speech of the Financial Secretary, that there is going to be an attempt to change the method of assessment, from the determination of the assessment, from the amount of the yield taking to a consideration of the *tharams* of land as it obtains in British India for purposes of assessment. That will be a serious hardship and that will be resented to by the ryots without question. The Settlement Memorandum is not before us. We are not able to discuss that. I wish to request Government that, if and when a settlement memorandum has been prepared, before they take a single step by way of settlement operations, settle the method and principles of assessment, the Government ought to take the opinion of this House, and I think, it is necessary for the Government to place it for public criticism, for a sufficiently long time before they launch on this scheme of changing the principle of assessment under which we are. This is the point I want to emphasise over and over again so far as settlement operations are concerned.

PRESIDENT : Your time is up.

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikom*): അടുത്തവർഷത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് തയ്യാറാക്കുന്നതിൽ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽസിക്രട്ടറി അഭിനന്ദനാർഹനാണെന്നു എനിക്കുപക്ഷമില്ല. സാധാരണയായി ഒരു തുക മിച്ചംവച്ചുള്ള ബഡ്ജറാണു് ഈ സഭമുമ്പാകെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു വരുന്നതെന്നുള്ളതിനുമുമ്പുള്ള ബഡ്ജറുകൾപരിശോധിച്ചാൽ കാണാവുന്നതാണു്. ൧൦൨൩, ൧൦൨൪, ൧൦൨൫ ഈ കൊല്ലങ്ങളിലെപ്പോലെ ൧൦൨൬ൽ ലും ഒരു ചെറിയതുക മിച്ചം ഉള്ളബഡ്ജറാണു് നമ്മുടെ മുമ്പാകെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ൧൦൨൩-ൽ അവതരിപ്പിച്ച ബഡ്ജറിൽ ൨൫൦൭ൽ-ലക്ഷംരൂപാ വരവും ൨൪൮൭ൽ ലക്ഷംരൂപാ ചിലവും ൨൦൨൫ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ മിച്ചവും പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരുന്നിട്ടു് വരവു യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ ൨൫൨൭ൽ ലക്ഷം രൂപായായി അവസാനിച്ചു. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പ്രതീക്ഷയിൽനിന്നും ൨൫ ലക്ഷംരൂപായാണു് അന്നു കുറഞ്ഞുപോയിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ൧൦൨൭-ൽ ൨൫൨൭ൽ ലക്ഷംരൂപാ വരവും ൨൫൨൮ൽ ലക്ഷംരൂപാ ചിലവും ൪൮,൦൦൦ രൂപാ മിച്ചവുമായിട്ടാണു് ബഡ്ജറു് അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. എന്നാൽ യഥാർത്ഥമായ വരവു് ൨൫൭ൽ ലക്ഷം രൂപായും ചിലവു് ൨൫൭ൽ ലക്ഷം രൂപായുമായി കലാശിച്ചു. ഇതുലക്ഷംരൂപാ ആ കൊല്ലം പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ച വരവിൽനിന്നും കുറഞ്ഞുപോയിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇപ്രകാരം പ്രതീക്ഷകൾ വളരെ അന്തരംവരുന്നതു ഒരു ധനകാര്യവിദഗ്ധതയുടെ ലക്ഷണമായി വിചാരിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. അന്തരംവരുന്നതു സാധാരണയാണെങ്കിലും അതിനും ഒരു പരിധിവേണ്ടതു അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്. ൧൦൨൬-ലെ ബഡ്ജറിൽ ൨൫൨൭ൽ ലക്ഷം

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രൂപാ വരവും ഉ ഉ ഉ. ഠ ർ ലക്ഷംരൂപാ ചിലവുമാണ് പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരുന്നത്. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സിക്രട്ടറിയുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽനിന്നും കാണുന്നതു പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരുന്നവയിൽനിന്നും വു ലക്ഷംരൂപാ ക്രൂട്ടമെന്നാണ്. ഇപ്രകാരമുള്ള അന്തരം അതായതു പ്രതീക്ഷ ക്രൂട്ടുകയും കുറയുകയും ചെയ്യുകയെന്നുള്ളതു ഒരു ചെറിയ പരിധിക്കുമാത്രം വകവെച്ചുകൊടുക്കാമെന്നല്ലാതെ ഇത്രവളരെ അന്തരം വരുന്നതു കായ്യനടപ്പിനു വിഘ്നമാരം വരുത്തുന്നതാണ്. ഇതു ആശാസ്യമായ നടപടിയാണെന്നുതോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഇങ്ങനെ അന്തരം വന്നാൽതന്നെയും മിച്ചംകാണിക്കുന്നതു, വരവിന്റെ താരതമ്യമനുസരിച്ചു, വരവുകുറയുന്നതുപോലെ ചിലവുംകുറക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണ്. സാധാരണയായി ബഡ്ജറ്റ് അവതരിപ്പിക്കുമ്പോൾ ചിലവുകുറക്കുന്ന ഇനം പൊതുമരാമത്തു ഇനമാണ്. അല്ലെങ്കിൽ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കാവശ്യമുള്ള മറേറതെങ്കിലുമിനമായിരിക്കും. ഈ നടപടി ആക്ഷേപകരമാണെന്നു പറയാതെ നിവ്വാഹമില്ല. ഇതോടൊന്നിച്ചു നമ്മുടെ വരവു കുറഞ്ഞു കുറഞ്ഞു പത്തുകൊല്ലംമുൻപുള്ള തിരുവിതാംക്രൂറിലെ വരവിനോടു സമീപിക്കുന്നു എന്നുകൂടി കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. ഉദ്ദേശം ആറിലൊരുവീതം ആദായം പത്തുകൊല്ലംകൊണ്ടു കുറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നാണ് കാണുന്നതു്. ഫ ഫ ഠ വ-ലെ വരവു ഇത്രയും കുറയുമെന്നു പറയുന്നില്ല. ഗണ്യമായ ഒരു കുറവു ആദായത്തിൽവരുന്നതു ഭയപ്പെടേണ്ട ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്. ഫ ഫ ഠ ൻ-ൽ ൻ, ഠ ഠ ഠ-രൂപാ മിച്ചം വച്ചുകാണുന്നു. വരവിൽ യാതൊരുകുറവും കണക്കാക്കിയിട്ടുമില്ല. എന്നാൽ ലാൻറ്റവന്യൂ പതിവിൽനിന്നും കുറയാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനു യാതൊരു മാർഗ്ഗവും കാണുന്നുമില്ല.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): ലാൻറുറവന്യൂ കുറച്ചല്ലേ വച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്?

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikam*): ഗണ്യമായ ഒരു തുക കുറച്ചു കാണുന്നില്ല. ഈ കൊല്ലത്തിലുണ്ടായ അതികലശലായ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കംനിമിത്തം തോവാളമുതൽ പറവൂർ വരെയുള്ള എല്ലാ താലൂക്കുകളിലും കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു് വളരെ നഷ്ടം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. കൃഷിക്കാരായ ഭ്രസ്വഭൂടമസ്ഥന്മാരിൽനിന്നും ഈടാക്കുന്നതാണു് നികുതി. ആ ഇനത്തിൽ ഫ ഫ ഠ ൻ-ൽ ഗണ്യമായ ഒരു തുക ഇളവുചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടിവരും. അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു സന്മനസ്സില്ലെങ്കിൽതന്നെയും ഫ ഫ ഠ ൻ-ലെ ഭ്രനികുതി മുഴുവനും പിരിയും എന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നതു് അബദ്ധമാണ്.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): ഫ ഫ ഠ ൻ-ൽ എത്ര സംഖ്യ പിരിഞ്ഞുകിട്ടും?

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MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikam*): ഇതിനുമമ്പു് രണ്ടുമൂന്നവസരങ്ങളിൽ മുന്നാണ്ടത്തെ കടിശിഖയിനം അടുത്തകൊല്ലത്തെ ബഡ്ജറിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി അറിയാം. അപ്രകാരം ഇക്കൊല്ലം ഒരു കടിശിഖ വന്നേക്കുമെന്നുപോലും ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽസിക്രട്ടറി സംശയിക്കുന്നില്ല. വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കംകൊണ്ടു ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂർകാർ അനുഭവിക്കുന്ന സങ്കടം തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തുള്ളവക്കോ ദക്ഷിണതിരുവിതാംകൂർകാർക്കോ ശരിയായി മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ ഇതുവരെയുള്ള അവസരമുണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലാ. ഇക്കൊല്ലത്തിൽ അതിനൊരു സമാധാനം തോന്നത്തക്കവണ്ണം തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തും വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കംകൊണ്ടുള്ള ക്ലേശം നല്ലവണ്ണം അനുഭവിക്കാൻ ഇടയായതിൽ ചാരിതാർത്ഥ്യമുണ്ടു്. വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കമുള്ള അവസരങ്ങളിൽ സർക്കീട്ടുചെയ്തു് ജനങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടത്തെപ്പറ്റി അന്വേഷിച്ചു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ധരിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതിനു കടമപ്പെട്ട ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കകാലത്തു മോട്ടാർകാറുകളിൽ സുഖമായി സഞ്ചരിക്കുന്നതിനു സൌകര്യമില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ വീട്ടിലിരുന്നിട്ടു്, വെള്ളമെല്ലാം ഇറങ്ങി വഴികൾ എല്ലാം നന്നായികഴിയുമ്പോൾ സൌകര്യമുള്ള റോഡുകളിൽക്കൂടിമാത്രം സഞ്ചരിച്ചു് വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കംകൊണ്ടു് ദോഷം ഒന്നുംതന്നെ നേരിട്ടില്ലെന്നു് ഗവൺമെൻറിനെ ധരിപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കമുണ്ടാകുന്നില്ലെന്നാണൊ മെംബറുടെ അഭിപ്രായം?

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikam*) : സാധാരണ അവിടെ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കം ഉണ്ടാകാറില്ലന്നേ പറഞ്ഞൊള്ളു. ഇക്കൊല്ലത്തിൽ തോവാളമുതൽ പറവൂർവരെയുള്ള താലൂക്കുകളിൽ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കമുണ്ടായി എന്നാണ് ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അതിൽ തിരുവനന്തപുരവും ഉൾപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടാണു് അല്പസമാധാനം ഉള്ളതു്. നിത്യവും വെള്ളത്തിൽ കിടക്കുന്ന കുട്ടനാടൻപ്രദേശങ്ങളിലും വൈക്കം, പറവൂർ മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും ഒട്ടധികം നഷ്ടം വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കംമൂലം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അവിടങ്ങളിൽ ഇടവമാസത്തിനുശേഷം ഇതുവരെ വെള്ളം ഒഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല. അതിന്റെ പരമാർത്ഥസ്ഥിതി അറിയുന്നതിനു നമ്മുടെ വമ്പിച്ച മാസപ്പടി വാങ്ങുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാക്കു സാധിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഇങ്ങനെ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കംനിമിത്തമുള്ള നഷ്ടത്തിനു് ധനസഹായം പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്ന ജനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു് പതിവുപോലെ കരം വസൂലാക്കുന്നതും അതും പതിവുപോലെ കിട്ടുമെന്നുദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതും വലിയ സാഹസമാണു്. സെൻസസ്

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റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽനിന്നും മനസിലാകുന്നതു് വസ്തുഉടമസ്ഥന്മാരായ കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ സംഖ്യ ഇ ഫ വ ൻ-ം, പാട്ടക്കാരായ കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ സംഖ്യ ർ ന്യ-ം, കൃഷിതൊഴിലിൽ ഏർപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള കൂലിവേലക്കാരുടെ സംഖ്യ ര ർ ന്യ ം ആണെന്നുകാണുന്നു ആകെ വ ർ ന്നു ചേർ കൃഷിപിഴകൊണ്ടു സങ്കടപ്പെട്ടവരായി ഇന്നു് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുണ്ടു്. ഇവർ ഫ ഫ ൻ-ൽ അതികലശലായ ദാരിദ്ര്യം അനുഭവിക്കേണ്ടിവരും. ഫ ഫ ൻ ലേക്കു് ആവശ്യമുള്ള വിത്തുപോലും കിട്ടുന്നതിനു മാർഗ്ഗമില്ല. ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ധനസഹായം ചെയ്തു് വിത്തുവാങ്ങിക്കൊടുത്തു് കൃഷിനടത്തേണ്ട ഗവണ്മെൻറു് അവരോടു കരംഇൗടാക്കുന്നതു് ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ ആശാസ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല. കൃഷിക്കാരായ ഒരു വലിയ ജനവിഭാഗത്തെ അവഗണിച്ചു് പെരുമാറുന്ന രീതിയും ഒട്ടും ആശാസ്യമല്ല. ജനസംഖ്യയുടെ ആറിൽ ഒരുഭാഗം കൃഷിക്കാരാണു. അവരുടെ കാര്യം ശരിയായി നോക്കുന്നതിനു് ഒരു ഡിപ്പർട്ടുമെൻറും പ്രത്യേകിച്ചില്ല താലൂക്കിലെ അറകറാങ്ങളും മറ്റും അറിഞ്ഞു് അതിനു പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കികൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു് റവന്യൂ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറാണു് എന്നാണു വയ്പു്. കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ കാര്യങ്ങൾ പ്രത്യേകമായി നടത്തപ്പെടുന്നു എന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറു വച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു് കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറാണു്. അവരിൽ ഒരുത്തക്കും ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു പ്രത്യേകമായി യാതൊരു ചുമതലയും ഇല്ലാ. വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കമുണ്ടായി എന്നു അറിവുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അതിനൊരു ശരിയായ പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കികൊടുക്കണമെന്നു് ഗവണ്മെൻറു വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. വലിയ കുന്നിൻപുറങ്ങളിലുള്ള ബംഗ്ലാവുകളിൽ തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തിരിക്കുന്ന ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു് മേലധ്യക്ഷന്മാർ യഥാർത്ഥസങ്കടം അനുഭവിച്ചറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള സ്ഥലത്തെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശുപാർശകളെ അവഗണിച്ചുവരുന്നതായും എനിക്കു അറിയാം. ഞങ്ങൾ ഫ ഫ ർ മുതൽ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കം നിമിത്തമുള്ള ക്ലേശങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിച്ചുവരുന്നു. അതിനുള്ള കാരണം പലരും പലതരത്തിൽ പറയുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഫ ഫ ർ മുതൽ കൃഷിയിൽനിന്നും ശരിയായ ആദായം എടുക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. നാട്ടുകാരായ പഴയ കൃഷിക്കാർ പറയുന്നതു് ഹാർബർ വന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണു് ഇങ്ങനെ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കം കൂടക്കൂടെ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതു് എന്നാണു്. മുമ്പു് വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള അവസരങ്ങളിൽ വെള്ളം പൊട്ടന്നു് ഇറങ്ങിയിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇപ്പോൾ വെള്ളം പൊങ്ങിയാൽ അതു ഇറങ്ങുന്നില്ലാ. അതിനു പരിഹാരം കഴിയുന്നതും വേഗം ഉണ്ടാക്കണം. തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തു ഒരു ചെ

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[Mr. V. K. Velappan Nair.]

റിയ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കമുണ്ടായ അവസരത്തിൽ അതിനെപ്പറ്റി അന്വേഷിക്കുന്നതിനും പരിഹാരം നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതിനും ഉടൻതന്നെ ചുമതലപ്പെട്ട ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പുറപ്പെടുകയും അതിനുവേണ്ടി ഒരു പ്രസ്കമ്മീണിക്ക് പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിലേക്ക് ഒരു നല്ല തുക ഗവൺമെൻറിൽനിന്നും ചിലവുചെയ്യാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നുമുണ്ട്. ഇതിലും ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു പക്ഷപാതം കാണിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ നിത്യവും വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കംകൊണ്ട് കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്ന ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂർകാരുടെ കാര്യം ഗണ്യമായ വിധത്തിൽ ആലോചിക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നതു് ഒരിക്കലും ശരിയല്ല. ജനങ്ങളുടെ വരവിനുള്ള ഇനങ്ങൾ എല്ലാം നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന അടുത്ത കൊല്ലത്തിൽ ഫാറസ്റ്റ്റവന്യൂ പതിവുപോലെ കിട്ടുമെന്ന് ഫിനാൽഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറി വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കം നിമിത്തമുള്ള കൃഷിനഷ്ടംകൊണ്ടും മറ്റുവിഷമങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടും കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്ന കൃഷിക്കാർ വനത്തിൽനിന്നും തടിവാങ്ങിച്ച് ഫാറസ്റ്റ്റവന്യൂ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുമെന്ന് വിചാരിക്കുന്നതു് ശരിയായി വരാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഇക്കൊല്ലത്തിൽ വരവിൻെറ കുറവിനെ പരിഹരിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം അടുത്തകൊല്ലത്തിൽ ഫാറസ്റ്റ്റവന്യുവിൽ വർദ്ധന ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്ന് പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്നതു് സംശയാസ്പദമാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള വിഷമഘട്ടത്തിൽ ആളകാം ക്ക് പുതുതായി കുറെ ടോൾക്കൂടെ കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതു് ടാക്സിൻെറ ഇനത്തിൽ പെടുന്നില്ലെങ്കിലും അതും ജനങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നുള്ളതിനു പക്ഷാന്തരമില്ലല്ലോ.

റിട്ടഞ്ചുമെൻറ് കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ ശുപാർശയനുസരിച്ച് ജനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും വസൂലാക്കാനുള്ള ഇനങ്ങൾക്കെല്ലാം ഉടനടി നടപടി നടത്തുന്നു. റിട്ടഞ്ചുമെൻറ്കമ്മിറ്റി അറിഞ്ഞോ അറിയാതേയോ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ശുപാർശ അനുസരിച്ചു പൊണകുട്ടികൾക്കു ഫീസു കൂട്ടി. ഇന്നത്തെ സാമ്പത്തികവിഷമങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിച്ച് പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ ചുമതലപ്പെട്ട കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ ശുപാർശയിൽ മുതലെടുപ്പ് വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള അത്യാശമൂലം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ക്ലേശങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി യാതൊന്നും ആലോചിക്കാതെ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ധനസംബന്ധമായി ക്ലേശങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിക്കുന്നവരെ കൂടുതൽ നികുതിചുമത്തി വിഷമിപ്പിക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്തതു്. എന്നാൽ റിട്ടഞ്ചുമെൻറ് കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ ശുപാർശയനുസരിച്ച് സർക്കാർ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളത്തിൽ ഒരു ശതമാനം കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞിരുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഇതുവരെ ഒന്നും ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല. വരവിനങ്ങളിൽ ന്യായമായിട്ടു കിട്ടേണ്ടതിനെ കൂട്ടാതിരിക്കയും

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കൃഷി ഇനത്തിൽ നിന്നും കിട്ടേണ്ട നികുതി കൂടിക്കൂട്ടി വരവിനത്തിൽ കൊള്ളിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ പ്രതീക്ഷകളെല്ലാം മുമ്പിലത്തേ പോലെ പരാജയത്തിൽതന്നെ വരുന്നതാണ്. ചിലവിനങ്ങളും ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കൊള്ളിക്കുന്ന പതിവ് ഒരു ഐക്യരൂപ്യം ഇല്ലാത്ത വിധത്തിലാണ്. ഒരു താലൂക്കിലെ ജനസംഖ്യയേയോ വിസ്തീർണ്ണത്തേയോ നികുതിയേയോ തോതാക്കി അല്ലാ ഇപ്പോൾ ചിലവു ചെയ്യുവരുന്നത്. പൊതുമരാമത്തിനങ്ങളും പൊതുജനാരോഗ്യപരമായ ചിലവുകളും വളരെ അത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ടുള്ള ഗുണം എല്ലാതാലൂക്കുകളിലും കിട്ടത്തക്കവണ്ണം അതിലേയ്ക്ക് ഒരു ക്ലിപ്തമായ തോതുവച്ചു ചിലവുകൾ നിയന്ത്രിക്കണം. ഇപ്പോൾ അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്തുവരുന്നില്ല. ഉദാഹരണമായി തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ നന്ന.ഫ ൪ മൈൽ ദൂരം റോഡുള്ളതിൽ തിരുവല്ലാതാലൂക്കിൽ തന്നെ ഫ൪ ൦ മൈൽ ഉണ്ട്. കല്ലൂളം താലൂക്കിൽ ഫന.ഫ മൈൽ റോഡുണ്ട്. വൈയ്ക്കം താലൂക്കിൽ ൪൪ മൈൽ റോഡേ ഉള്ളൂ. ശരാശരി കണക്കാക്കുന്നതായാൽ വൈയ്ക്കംതാലൂക്കിൽ ഫ.ഫ ൦ മൈൽ റോഡു വേണ്ടതാണു. ഞങ്ങളുടെ അയൽതാലൂക്കായ ചേർത്തലതാലൂക്കിൽ ൽന മൈൽ റോഡേ ഉള്ളൂ. മേലാൽ ഈ വക ചിലവുകൾക്ക് ഒരു ഐകരൂപ്യംവരുത്തേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): തിരുവല്ലാ താലൂക്കിൽ എത്ര പകുതി ഉണ്ടെന്നു അറിയാമോ?

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikam*): ഫന്ന പകുതി ഉണ്ട്.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): വൈയ്ക്കം താലൂക്കിൽ എത്ര പകുതി ഉണ്ട്?

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikam*) ഫ൪ പകുതി ഉണ്ട്.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): തിരുവല്ലാ താലൂക്കു ആകപ്പാടെ എത്ര ചതുരശ്രമൈൽ വിസ്തീർണ്ണമുണ്ട്?

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikam*): അതു ഞാൻ നോക്കിയിട്ടില്ല.

MR. M. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): കരുനാഗപ്പള്ളി താലൂക്കിൽ എത്ര മൈൽ റോഡുണ്ട്?

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikam*): മെംബർക്കു കിട്ടിയിട്ടുള്ള സ്റ്റാറ്റിസ്റ്റിക്സിൽ നോക്കിയാൽ അറിയാം.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): വൈക്കം താലൂക്കിൽ ജലമാർഗ്ഗമായി ധാരാളം സഞ്ചാരസൗകര്യമില്ലേ?

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MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikam*): ഏഴ മൈൽ ദൂരം തോട്ടകം ഉണ്ട്. ക്രടാതെ വേമ്പനാട്ട കായലും ഉണ്ട്.

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*): ചേർത്തലത്താലൂക്കിൽ ജലമാർഗ്ഗമായി സഞ്ചാരസൌകര്യം ഉണ്ടോ?

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikam*): വളരെ കുറവാണ്.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): ജലമാർഗ്ഗമായി സഞ്ചരിക്കുന്നതിനു കാറും കോളും ഉള്ളപ്പോൾ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണോ?

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikam*): കാറും കോളും ഉള്ളപ്പോൾ മുങ്ങിമരിക്കാൻ തയ്യാർ ഉള്ളവർക്കു സഞ്ചരിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കും.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): ചേർത്തലയിൽ മുട്ടുവരെ താഴ്ന്ന മണൽപ്രദേശംപോലെ വേറെ സ്ഥലം ഉണ്ടോ?

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikam*): ഇല്ല. എന്നാൽ വയ്ക്കം ചെളി പ്രദേശമായതുകൊണ്ടു അവിടേയും നടക്കുമ്പോൾ മുട്ടുവരെ താഴും.

എനിക്കു മുഴുവൻസംഗതികളും പറയുന്നതിനു എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതന്മാർ എന്നെ അനുവദിക്കയില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ ഭയപ്പെടുന്നു.

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*): Sir, before I come directly to my observations on the budget within the restricted time at my disposal, I have to speak a few words by way of introduction. Having been a Vernacular School Teacher for a few years and a social worker the rest of my life, I have been accustomed to speak always in my mother tongue. When I went through the Rules of this House, Rule 26 says that I should speak in English.

PRESIDENT: That has nothing to do with the Budget.

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*): I am only sorry that the discretion vested in the President has not been extended to me. I am forced to speak in a language which does not enable me to do full justice either to myself or my constituency.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Did the member ask the permission of the President to speak in Malayalam?

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*): Yes; I said.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That does not arise on the budget.

PRESIDENT: I have told him.

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*): The budget presented is a surplus budget. I am willing to congratulate the Financial Secretary for his ability not only to balance the budget but also to present a surplus budget. But I shall not be doing justice to my conscience if I merely congratulate him without clearing my doubts. I was puzzled when the Financial Secretary answered the previous speaker saying that the

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revenue for the next year is less than this year. But I find that that is not the case. I shall read a few sentences from the Financial Secretary's speech :

> "The budgeted revenue for the next year is Rs. 230·04 lakhs as against the current year's anticipated revenue of Rs. 232·88 lakhs so that our forecast for the ensuing year is Rs. 2·84 lakhs less. This decrease is only apparent. ..... The decrease of Rs. 2·84 lakhs from our expectations this year is the net result of a decline in revenue to the extent of Rs. 6·09 lakhs under some of the revenue heads especially Salt (·50), Customs (·20), Interest (2·01) and Buildings, Communications and Miscellaneous Public Improvements (2·92), counterbalanced by improvement in revenue to the extent of Rs. 3·25 lakhs under others, of which Land Revenue and Forest contribute Rs. 1·60 lakhs and Rs. ·50 of a lakh respectively."

What I understood from that was that the Budget for the next year under land revenue is more than that of this year. If that is the case, it is an omnious thing for the sufferers from flood damage especially in North Travancore. The previous speaker comes from Vaikam and I come from Kottayam. We are common sufferers. Sir, I am glad to tell the House that the most respectable veteran of this House, the member from Ambalapuzha, will be able to plead our cause most effectively and get some redress in the matter. For some years past, floods have been occurring most frequently in almost all places near Vembanad and Kuttanad. Although there is difference of opinion about the cause of the floods there is common agreement about one fact namely that the Cochin Harbour has contributed a good lot towards this. Recently, I happened to read an article contributed by the retired Director of Industries in Travancore. He attributed the floods to the silting up of the rivers and the clearing of forests. Whatever be the cause, this year floods have caused very great havoc. In 1099, the flood which was the most terrible of recent years, I was one of those who was waiting at the Boat Jetty at Kottayam to receive Mr. Raghaviah, the then Dewan. As soon as Mr. Raghaviah arrived, he asked the officers where he should go. Atonce the answer was "Kumarakom, Sir". But his answer was, "it is always under water, and therefore it does not need special attention." I come from Kumarakom and therefore I know the difficulties there very well. The case is very different now. Kumarakom is always under water and the people could not do any cultivation even in cocoanut gardens. This year especially the floods had lasted for nearly 50 days and people did not know what living on earth was. All cultivation except that of the cocoanut has been ruined. Now-a-days cocoanut trees too do not bear as in former years. If some investigation is not made, the case of the people of those places will be very much worsened in the coming years. Sometimes, people have been forced to leave their houses bag and baggage and seek other places. After 16 or 20 days, when they go back to their own houses, they find them desolated, the cattle dead and the buildings ruined. What will be the sad plight of these people can be imagined. Kumarakom is a water-logged country. Therefore boats are always necessary there. But when terrible floods come about, these boats are not sufficient to escape to other places. Therefore, it is

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not the ordinary grievances that I am representing before this House. This is one of the most important grievances. Therefore, I appeal to the mercy of all my colleagues and to you, Sir, to allot some special funds for flood relief. Mr. Chacko also suggested some means by which flood damages may be lessened. His methods may or may not be correct. When an expert Engineer investigates, the remedies could be found out. But as long as there is no reduction of land revenue in this budget, the people will be put to great suffering.

I wish to refer to another matter in this budget. One of the reasons for the increase under customs is the increased importation of Ceylon copra into this country. That is a matter over which people have been crying for the last so many months.

Cocoanut also has gone down in price now-a days. People say that one of the reasons for the cocoanuts to have such a small price is the importation of Ceylon copra. But that is a matter for the experts to decide. Anyhow, cocoanut being one of the most important and staple products of the country, that is a matter to be investigated indeed.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Can the member say what approximately would be the loss incurred on exports on account of the import of Ceylon copra?

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*): I do not know that. I thought I would be able to find it out from the speech of the Financial Secretary, but nothing is mentioned there.

To pass on to other subjects, I see that so many new items of expenditure have been provided for in the budget. One is the Central Printing Office to be created in the Huzur Office and nearly Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 9,000 has been allotted for that new section to be created in the Huzur Office. Now, that function is being done by the Stationery Department and if this portion of the work also is taken away from the Stationery Department, I am not an expert and I am also new to this Council—I do not know what the Stationery Department will have to do. It will only be a store and nothing more. Therefore the Rs. 9,000 may be diverted for some other useful purpose if that thing is at least postponed for some time more.

I wanted to say one thing more about the reclaimed portion of the Vembanad Lake. More than ten thousand acres of new paddy fields have been added to our State. Nearly Rs. 25 lakhs has been spent for that purpose by the people of the locality. We heard here that a large quantity of paddy is being imported into Travancore year by year as the answer for some interpellation. More than 10,000 acres of paddy land newly added to our State at the cost of Rs. 25 lakhs will have to be left uncultivated due to the low price of paddy and the high price of kerosine oil which is necessary for draining out the water from the paddy fields. From the budget I was able to find that a paltry sum of Rs. 1 lakh was set apart for loans to *punja* cultivators like last year. This amount is nothing when compared to the huge expenditure that will have to be incurred by the cultivators there.

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MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : What about the Hydro-Electric Scheme ?

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*) : I was coming to that. I thank the member for reminding me about it. Last year this was a problem for the people of our parts. Some of the agriculturists, some experts and myself, went together to the Electrical Engineer last year when we came here and discussed the matter of using electricity for the purpose of draining out the water. Then he asked us " what is the present cost of draining out water from one acre of land ?" The answer was " Rs. 15 ". The Electrical Engineer then informed us that he will be able to see that the water from one acre of paddy land is drained out at the cost of Rs. 5 or at the most Rs. 7½. If that could be done, that will be a real service to the country and then the people will be able to cultivate the newly reclaimed paddy lands. Otherwise, if the price of paddy does not increase at least by four or five chackrams more, these lands will be left uncultivated. I am not exaggerating the matter, Sir. Therefore, when yesterday I heard a member say that the Hydro-Electric scheme is a waste to the country, I was really taken aback and I was really sorry that the member did not take care to enquire from the Electrical Engineer the use he was going to make of the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme. If it takes Rs. 70 lakhs or even Rs. 100 lakhs, it is nothing when compared to the more than 10,000 acres of paddy lands being cultivated. At least this difference of Rs. 7½ will be the gain for the owner of one acre of land after the introduction of the scheme. That is a very attractive profit for the modest cultivator in those parts.

One matter for which the Government and the Financial Secretary deserve congratulation is the scheme to amalgamate the Sanitary and Health Departments. Really that is a most useful thing and one of the previous speakers congratulated the Government for that and I heartily join with him. But I have a slight difference of opinion about the scheme. It seems that the Sanitary Department and the Health Department are going to be amalgamated and placed under the Medical Department. I think that that will not do good to these amalgamated departments in the future. For the present it may be all right, but afterwards it will be different. The Medical Department, being the most important department, will have a very big officer as the head and the Sanitary Department will get a step-motherly treatment at the hands of the Medical Department.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : *Hear, hear.*

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : May I know whether the preventive activities are also not the concern of the Medical Department ?

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*) : I think the curing activities are the concern of the Medical Department. If they prevent all the diseases, then there will be no work for the Medical Department. (*Hear, hear.*)

PRESIDENT : Your time is up.

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MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): Sir, as I am one who is constantly living in a strictly rural area and associating myself with rural people and as I know their conditions intimately it was with very tense expectation that I began the study of the Budget sent by the Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly; and expectations, when not in possession of actual facts, can be as ideal and as charmingly coloured as imagination can possibly make it. My expectations were vague indeed, but vague only in details for they were based upon a definite hope that the Government would have realised the present state of affairs in this country and that the Budget would contain some definite indication of that painful realisation. But my surprise and disappointment was really great when I found the Budget, as it were, actually knocking me in my face with a negative to all the querries I had mentally framed. It was or rather I must say, it is but a repetition of the very same old formalities, the same old trick of manipulating the receipt columns to suit the steadily swelling columns of expenditure the same old Budget balancing acrobatisms of the Financial Secretary and the same old illusory surplus. It has, Sir, once again told us in unmistakable terms that the Government Machinary is inelastic and incapable of adapting itself to the changing circumstances.

Sir, in the history of a country there arise extraordinary situations demanding extraordinary actions, and we in Travancore are just now confronting such an extraordinary situation. The Financial Secretary himself both in the Budget and in the Budget speech has very freely blamed that economic depression for various undesirable results. But in spite of the 200 and odd pages of the Budget, and still more wonderful 30 and odd pages of his speech, two things stand out plainly. One is that even though the Financial Secretary has begged the help of the economic depression to explain away various decreases in receipts, he has not even once sought its co-operation to reduce an item of expenditure. The Budget estimate of 1108 left a surplus of Rs. 1,15,000 and the revised estimate now gives a surplus of Rs. 1,17,000. At first sight it is really a commendable achievement, that in the face of the prevailing economic depression the Financial Secretary has increased the anticipated surplus by Rs. 2,000. But when we realise that the receipts for the year have gone higher by Rs. 9,69,000 and in spite of this enormous increase the surplus rose only by Rs. 2000, then Sir, we really begin to wonder whether we have to congratulate the Government for their economy or to thank God that they did not actually eat into the capital. A perusal of the Budget for 1109 would disclose the same tendency. The salary columns have almost invariably grown fatter.

In this connection, I must not forget to thank the Financial Secretary for effecting two savings totalling to Rs. 4,46,000. Of these one is a decrease of Rs. 2,39,000 under interest. But the pity of it is that it has been very decently counterbalanced by a simultaneous decrease of Rs. 2,01,000 in receipts under the same item. Another is the

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saving of Rs. 2,07,000 in *Panivakai* because, says the Financial Secretary, provision has been introduced next year only for the normal grant. I have been so long under the impression that a reduction meant a reduction from the normal, but now it seems we have to thank the Government even for not spending more than the normal! The only parallel that I can remember in this connection is the story of our friend the old wolf who advised his friend Mr. Crane that he ought to be thankful towards him for not actually biting off his head while it was introduced as a pair of forceps to extricate the piece of bone that had mischievously misplaced itself in the throat of the wolf. From these simple facts it will be very easy to guess. What would be the attitude of the Government towards the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. And no guess is necessary either by the statement supplied by the Government or before us. When the Retrenchment Committee made proposals for a reduction in expenditure of 15 and odd lakhs of rupees the Government found their way to accept only about Rs. 3 lakhs and odd. And even to show this meagre consideration to their recommendation the Government had to begin at the wrong end. Whenever the committee had recommended the abolition of a clerk here or a peon there, the Government have readily accepted it. But when it came to a recommendation for the abolition of Division Assistant's post, the Government have with equal readiness rejected it. They have thrown out a hundred Excise peons here or sent away one range clerk at another place. But the abolition of the Deputy Registrar's place in the High Court or the amalgamation of the posts of the Head Sirkar Vakil and the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil are certainly impossibilities. The Committee asked the Government "will you kindly substitute seven Assistant Commissioners for the present A. S. P's. and D. S. P's.? The answer is "No." Will you kindly reduce the number of Traffic Inspectors"? Again the answer is "No." "Will you kindly reduce the number of suits given to the peons in the Police Commissioner's Office?" "Alright, it is accepted." This is the policy clearly seen in the statement given to us. When at last the committee lowers its voice and humbly requests the Government to effect a temporary cut in salaries and effect a saving of a few lakhs of rupees and again to make another permanent cut and effect a saving of another few lakhs of rupees, then again the gracious reply comes in the form of a big "No" in capital letters.

Not that I take any particular pleasure in speaking about the cut of officers' salaries; but Sir, there is a crucial point because it is the one unmistakable test of the sincerity of the Government in the matter of retrenchment. A Government in its concrete and visible form is comprised of its high controlling and directing officers and when these officers are extremely particular in scrupulously protecting the inviolability of their pockets, all talk of retrenchment is mere waste of time. I am only sorry for the entire lack of imagination on the part of the officers to foresee the future. Without affecting the individuals who now occupy particular posts, they could have permanently reduced the

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salaries now attached to the various posts. They could have done that and passed off as good boys and placated the Retrenchment Committee without any mischief done to their own interests.

The next point that stands out with equal vividness is this. Though the Financial Secretary has repeatedly sung the refrain of economic depression Government only seems to have been benefited by it. In the hands of the Government economic depression seems to have been a very profitable commodity so that, at the end of 12 months' transaction they have come out with glorious profits. The actual receipts for 1107 was Rs. 2,19,28,000 whereas the Budget Estimate for 1109 is Rs. 2,30,03,000. I think Government have made capital out of this economic depression, and have made a profit of Rs. 10,75,000 in 12 months. I am sure the resourceful Financial Secretary will be unable to explain it away. Explanations are plenty. Many things can explain it. And it can explain many things too. For example it can explain why the Government is after all not so very particular in reducing expenditure. But what requires explanation is not the increase in receipts but why the Financial Secretary should bemoan economic depression, why the various heads of departments should stand before us with melancholy faces and repeatedly tell us "No funds" "No funds", why the poor peons and low paid clerks should have been kicked off, why the girl students should have their fees enhanced and why the scholarships should have been reduced.

The fact, Sir, is this. Economic depression is a fact and it is a painful fact. It has struck a blow, and a heavy blow too. But the blow has fallen not on the head of the Government but on the head of the governed. The Government as I said are only having increased receipts. It is the people that are suffering. The Revenue Commissioner, I am sure, will tell you that his men are finding it most difficult to collect taxes. There is no no-tax campaign in Travancore and if the tax payers do not promptly come forward with their taxes it is not because of any unwillingness on their part but because the daily Kanji is immensely more important than the payment of taxes. Sir, almost all the new banks in the country have closed down; and, even those that have not actually closed down, are not, I am afraid, actually doing any business worth the name. The schools in the country, especially English schools, and more especially those in rural areas are showing signs of being very soon emptied into silent halls. The wages of the daily labourer, which stood between 12 and 14 chs. per diem, have now dwindled down to two or three edangalies of paddy and, even for that, there are very few to employ labour. And Government seems to be innocently ignorant of these matters, or I must say they are callously indifferent about them.

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The first item of specific provision in the Budget, which I looked for was capital expenditure. That gave me a sufficient indication of the policy adopted by the Government. And if any shadow of doubt remained a perusal of the Budget for P. W. D. removed even that. Sir, the presence of a permanent capital might be considered necessary to ensure the credit of a Government. But that is only a secondary consideration. The accumulation of a capital in the case of a Government, as in the case of an individual must never become an end in itself. A saving must always be for a spending; a saving which is never spent is as good as no saving. Therefore the Government should have liberally provided for Public Works. Various public improvements that have been suspended in the different parts of the country should have been at once begun again. Various urgent irrigation works for which the people have been clamouring for years should have been immediately attended to. Better provision should have been made also for productive industries. Sir, the rubber giants of our country are practically shut up in their mansions and every year we are importing very large amount of rubber articles. Still, Government have not yet thought of manufacturing rubber articles in the State. The fall in the price of copra has affected even more widely. It has gone deep into almost every home. And yet Government do not seem to realise that others are exporting copra not as an article of curiosity. If Government have at least the real interests of the governed, if they have a bit of creative imagination, if they have the least amount of courageous constructive policy this is the occasion when they should open new fields of activity and strike out new paths of progress; this is the occasion when they should follow a courageous, creative, imaginative, and adventurous policy; this is the occasion when they should empty their coffers for public improvements, for industrial development and agricultural upliftment, thereby ensuring the future welfare of the State, and at the same time ameliorating the condition of the dumb, starving dying millions begging for employment. But I am sorry Sir, that the Budget is neither creative nor courageous nor imaginative.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Sir, the Financial Secretary is entitled to the congratulations of this House for having placed before us a surplus Budget, with a nominal surplus of Rupees 79,000, at a time when our State along with others, has been languishing under the universal economic depression. A surplus Budget generally indicates all-round prosperity. But, I am sorry to say that our Budget does not indicate or reflect in spite of its surplus, all-round prosperity in the country. Sooner or later, the financial condition of the people is bound to be reflected on the financial position of the Government. As a wise adviser to Government, the Financial Secretary is bound to take account of this fact and to suggest measures calculated to improve the economic condition of the people. The economic condition of the people of this country is closely bound up with the prosperity of the agriculturists of the country. The price of agricultural products has already gone down terribly so that the people

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(whose income is drawn from land) have been hit hard. Their plight is day by day getting to be more and more miserable. It should therefore be the primary and anxious concern of the Government to devise measures calculated to increase the price level of agricultural products. I am prepared to admit, that Government, themselves by unilateral action, cannot solve the problem, unless they are aided by other Governments. But, Government by themselves, *can* do a great deal by adopting measures such as the extension of easy credit facilities to the agricultural classes and the adoption of anti-dumping measures.

Looking into the speech of the Financial Secretary, I find no indication of the state of our finances in the future, no indication whatsoever as to how our finances will be affected by the economic depression. There is no indication as to how our finances will be affected by our Government acceding to the future All-India Federation.

I shall proceed to make a few observations about some of the specific provisions in the Budget. I shall refer to the programme of capital expenditure outlined in the Financial Secretary's speech, particularly to the provision for the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme. I am not questioning for a moment the economic possibilities of the scheme or the possibility of its success. Sir, this scheme, as it was put before the last Budget Session of the last Legislative Council was estimated to cost about Rupees 36·75 lakhs; and it was proposed to be executed in two stages. The first stage was estimated to cost Rupees 11 lakhs and odd, and the second stage Rupees 25 lakhs and odd. It was also put before the House that, even after the completion of the first stage, a return could be expected on the capital invested. And, the total anticipated load was 9·6 million units. On this basis, it was estimated that the scheme would yield about five per cent. on the capital outlay. But, now, Sir, the proposals have been changed. The estimated cost is Rupees 70·8 lakhs, and the load anticipated, as I gather from the Financial Secretary's speech, is only 7 to 8 million units, so that the return is likely to go down considerably. I therefore want an explanation from the Financial Secretary regarding the financial soundness of the scheme as revised.

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*): Has the member any objection to take into account the gain which would result to the punja cultivators if they get cheap electric power under the Pallivasal Scheme?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): I am not going into the details about the benefits of the scheme, now. My point is that the estimated capital expenditure has gone up from 36 to 70 lakhs and the anticipated load has gone down from 9 million units to 7 million units, so that the anticipated yield for the outlay now appears to have gone down enormously. It is for that that I want an explanation from the Financial Secretary.

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Then, Sir, the propcsal now seems to be to finance this scheme out of our accumulated surplus cash balance with Government. This seems to me to be an unsafe policy; because I find that our cash balance stood as high as about Rupees 175 lakhs in 1105; in 1106 it came down to Rupees 160 odd lakhs. In 1107 it went further down to 140 odd lakhs; and now it is estimated to go down to Rupees 90 odd lakhs at the end of 1109. Sir, if we continue to draw at this rate, by the time the execution of this Pallivasal Scheme is completed, I think the whole of our accumulated surplus would be wiped out. What I would, therefore, suggest is that such colossal schemes should be financed by borrowed capital to be repaid out of sinking funds to be created for the purpose. As a matter of fact, this aspect of the question was placed before the Government by some members, at the last Budget Session of the Legislative Council. The accumulated surplus should be conserved to be drawn upon in lean years.

A word about the P. W. D. Budget. Of course I find that ample provision has been made for the P. W. Department. But there is no indication of any well-thought-out programme for the development of our means of communication.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): What does the member mean by 'ample provision'?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): By comparison with the allotments in previous years.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is it more than in previous years?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Not more. Of course attempts are being made to improve roads here and there. The motor traffic in Travancore has been fast developing and to cope with the problem arising from the increased traffic, it is absolutely necessary that a general programme for the improvement of the condition of roads, and widening of the roads is launched by the Department.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): How does the member know that the motor traffic is increasing?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencottah*): It is a fact. In this connection I will also urge upon the attention of Government that the existence of tolls on roads has been condemned by the last Legislative Council as an obnoxious form of taxation and that it should be abolished. I would only request the Government to follow the example of the Madras Government in resorting to a form of provincial taxation in this State so as to recoup the loss that may be occasioned by the abolition of tolls.

I would like to mention a word about the Road Development Fund. The Financial Secretary has not explained how this Road Development Fund will be administered. He has simply stated that a fund has been constituted out of the subventions from the Government of India. Last year in his budget speech he referred to the

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receipts from the Government of India as our share out of the excise duty on petrol. This year he has chosen to describe it as subvention from the Government of India. These two expressions have got different implications.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): They refer to the same thing.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): But if it is treated as subvention, it is subject to limitations.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have followed the heading of the Madras Government.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): That is only on a point of explanation.

A word about the Quilon Electric Scheme. Provision has been made for the scheme for the next year. I simply want to know whether the scheme will be handed over to the Municipality after its completion or whether it will be worked by the Government themselves I put this question to Government because under the Municipal Regulation it is one of the obligatory duties of Municipalities to provide lighting within the Municipal limits.

Then a word about the conversion operations of the Financial Secretary relating to our holdings in the Government of India securities. The Financial Secretary would like to be congratulated on the successful operations during the current year. The operations consist of three heads. He has converted Rupees 26·7 lakhs from the 5 per cent into 4 per cent securities. That has resulted in a profit of Rupees 2·02 lakhs, Rupees 65 lakhs of 5 percent securities into the $3\frac{1}{2}$ and 4 percentage securities of equivalent value. This has resulted in a net profit of Rupees 80,000. He has converted another Rupees 24 lakhs of the non-terminable $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent paper into 4 per cent securities of equivalent value. The net result of these transactions have not brought in any profit although he would like to show that it has resulted in a profit of Rupees 2·88 lakhs. If at all any profit can be said to have accrued from these transactions, it can only be from a commercial or mercantile valuation of our holdings in the Government of India securities although he has said that it has resulted in a profit by the conversion operations. I would like the Financial Secretary to come forward with an explanation as to whether these operations have really resulted in a profit to Government, on a mercantile valuation basis.

With these observations, I conclude.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Sir, at the outset I would congratulate the Government and the Financial Secretary for the budget which has to be characterised as a balanced budget at this time of economic strain. I, however, agree with the other members who spoke before me that provisions under such items as flood damages, remission of tax and irrigation are not adequate.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : (*Hear hear.*)

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : With regard to the remission there is no specific provision made in the Budget. The practice however has been for granting the remission when necessity arises and as a result of it, there will be noticed a corresponding reduction under land revenue collections. In view of the possible remissions next year I should consider that the Financial Secretary's forecast of receipts under Land Revenue may not be realised at the end of the year.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*) Is the member aware of any real case of remission being made ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Yes, Sir. In South Travancore remission has been granted. I think orders have recently been issued for granting remission of tax to the extent of 25 per cent. in the taluks of Tovala and Agasteesvaram.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : Does not the member know that there is generally an amount set apart for remission in the accounts ?

MR T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : That would be the the proper course ; but I have not seen it done.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : Are there are not standing orders under which remissions are granted ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Yes, there are the Remission Rules.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : Do not Government set apart a sum for that ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : It was not done in the past.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : May I know from the Member whether, even though there is not a specific provision for remission in the budget, the Financial Secretary could not have found ways to explain that in his budget speech ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Yes. He might have. The total collections of land revenue, according to the Financial Secretary's forecast is Rs. 36 lakhs. I think this is rather exaggerated and my view is that it should have been about Rs. 2 lakhs less.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : May I point out to the member that it includes all items ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Yes. The actual figures will be known at the close of next year. Remission will have to be granted next year in spite of the absence of a provision for it, and this will tell upon the figure.

With regard to flood damages and a few other items I find a small provision made in the budget. But it is very meagre. The provision

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should have been more liberal. Floods have become an annual visitor. Similarly, under Forests also, the budget of receipts appear to be over-estimated. Passing to the other items of receipts I do not see such exaggerated calculations.

PRESIDENT: You will please face the chair and not the official benches.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Yes, Sir. Some of my friends said that the budget has been prepared after starving the nation-building activities. It is, in my opinion, far from the truth. There *are* very liberal provisions made in the budget under every Department or institution of any importance, both for new schemes and for the continuance of schemes which have been already started and are in progress. Provision under capital expenditure of about Rs. 20 lakhs is very liberal. There is a provision of 6 lakhs (under debt heads) for the grant of different kinds of loans to the people. So I do not agree with my friends who said that the budget of surplus has been obtained after starving nation-building activities.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know from the member what the nation-building activities are?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): Has any allotment been made for any new item of irrigation works which the people have been crying for?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): The member will find them in the list of new works published as the appendix to the budget under irrigation.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Does the member think that Rs. 1 lakh allotted for irrigation is liberal enough?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): Sir, I rise to a point of order. The member's opinion is not relevant and the rules prohibit such questions being asked. Questions can only be asked for information.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): I have said already that it should have been more liberal.

Sir, I am by no means sanguine that, at the end of the year 1109 there will be surplus as anticipated.

Coming to the Land Revenue Department I find that there has been a re-classification of the items. Kandukrishi receipts and expenditure had formed part of Land Revenue. But now this item has been separated. I do not question the propriety of the separation. My point in referring to that is that it forms part of the land Revenue demand and 40 per cent of the gross receipts was made payable to the Devaswom department as contribution, by the Royal Proclamation of 1097.

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It is now stated that the net receipts from Kandukrishi lands are to be paid to the Palace from the year 1107. About a lakh and 34 thousand rupees was paid for 1107, and a lakh and 25 thousand is to be paid for this year. 40 per cent. of the gross receipts under Kandukrishi should have formed part of the contribution to the Devaswom Funds.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That has been done like that.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): In that case I am quite satisfied. Again in the 1108 budget, the receipts from markets, amounting to Rs. 82,000 which formed part of the *Sanchayam* revenue, was taken away from there and put under 'miscellaneous' and thereby the contribution has been reduced to the extent of Rs. 33,000. So, the contribution of 40 per cent. has become less and is getting reduced gradually as the land revenue receipts are reduced.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Does not the member see that the receipts from sale of puduval lands have been separated so as to suit the demands?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*); That did not form part of the *Ayacut* or *Sanchayam* revenue. It is only in the nature of capital receipts and that was done 4 or 5 years ago. I do not object to that so much as to this, which is a legitimate item, namely, *ayacut* and *Sanchayam* for the purpose of determining the contribution to the Devaswoms.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): 'Receipts from markets' were not separated.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): The member is not audible so as to be heard by us also.

PRESIDENT: I request all members to speak up.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): It was under *Sanchayam* until 1108.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): At the time of the Royal Proclamation, the amount of *Sanchayam* revenue was not fixed.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Up to last year the item "receipts from markets" was under *Sanchayam*.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That has, somehow or other by mistake, crept in.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): So, my submission is that from 1097 to 1107 Rs. 16 lakhs was paid as contribution. Recently certain items from Land Revenue have been separated and the actual contribution has been thereby reduced. Now the item about markets has been put under 'miscellaneous'. Tomorrow, some other item may be transferred to some other head in the Budget, and the Land Revenue further reduced.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know from the member, if it is 40 per cent of the *ayacut* accounts?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): It is 40 per cent. of ayacut and *Sanchayam*, put together.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know, what is the total receipt under Ayacut and Sanchayam?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Over Rs. 35 lakhs and 97 thousand. The contribution to the Devaswoms has already suffered to the extent of 1 1/2 lakhs when the Government adhered to the very letter of the Proclamation and disregarded the commitments in the Press Communique which was issued simultaneously with the Proclamation. The communique declares that at least Rs. 16 lakhs shall be guaranteed annually to the Devaswom fund; that has not been done., Certain definite items which formed part of head the Land Revenue are now taken away from that and the total collections under Land Revenue artificially reduced. If items under revenue heads are disturbed like this to the prejudice of the contribution, it will be difficult to meet the expenditure of the Devaswoms. In the Press Communique, it was distinctly stated that Rs. 15 lakhs was the annual expenditure of the Devaswoms and that the balance of one lakh would be taken to the head of reserve. Now, the very contribution has gone below 15 lakhs, and there is the risk of its getting further reduced. How are the Devaswoms to get on at this rate?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Every adjustment is made to the very letter of the Proclamation.

MR. M. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): ഉത്തര തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും കരമിളവ് ചെയ്യേണ്ടതല്ലേ?

MR T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): വേണ്ടാ എന്നു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞില്ല.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): അന്നത്തെ നെല്ലുവിലയെ കണക്കാക്കിയല്ലേ കരം നിശ്ചയിച്ചതു്?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): അന്നു് ഇരുന്ന നെല്ലുവിലയാണു് കണക്കാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നതു്. അന്നു് 4 ഒ ചക്രം ആയിരുന്നു.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Is it the contention of the member that even the current *ayacut* is estimated at a low figure?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): No. I see the land revenue budget going down in the matter of receipts. It is true certain items cannot be realised. Collections have been put off. That is inevitable and the Devaswoms are entitled only to 40 per cent. of the actual collections.

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MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know from the member, what has been the increase in the salaries of Devaswom Officers after the period of the Proclamation?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): I cannot say. If there be any reduction in the land revenue as a result of any general measure of relief granted to the ryot by way of reduction of tax, I can understand that. But if by an interference with the budget heads, an artificial reduction in the land revenue is brought about and if only 40 per cent. of such reduced revenue is to be contributed to Devaswoms, that position would be unfair to the Devaswoms. This is my contention.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know from the member, whether the Devaswoms will not get 40 per cent. of the increased receipts under the land Revenue after the re-settlement?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Yes, that is due to the Devaswoms under the Royal Proclamation and nobody need grudge it. Passing on to my next point, there is an item set apart under 'Jenmikaram settlement' under 'Land Revenue'. A Special Officer and staff have been appointed to prepare a statement, for the whole State, of the Jenmikaram which Government have to collect for the Jenmies under the new Jenmi and Kudiyan Regulation. I doubt the justification of the Government incurring this expenditure. The total expenditure for this item may be recovered from the Jenmies for whose benefit the work is done. I urge for the consideration of Government, whether the actual expenses in this direction should not be recovered from the Jenmies.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*). ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറി അവതരിപ്പിച്ച ബഡ്ജറിനെ ആഹ്ലാദപൂർവം സ്വാഗതം ചെയ്യുന്നതിന് എനിക്ക് അശേഷം നിവൃത്തിയില്ലെന്ന വ്യസനസമേതം പറയേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ ബഡ്ജറിന്റെ ബാഹ്യലക്ഷണം കണ്ടാൽ അതു മിച്ചം കാണിക്കുന്ന ഒരു ബഡ്ജറാണ് എന്നു തോന്നിക്കുമെങ്കിലും യഥാർത്ഥം അങ്ങനെയല്ലാ എന്നു ഒരു ധനകാര്യവിദഗ്ധനല്ലാത്ത ആളിനുപോലും ഊഹിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. ഫ്രാഞ്ചൈസിന്റെ വരവും ചെലവും നീക്കി നോക്കുമ്പോൾ മിച്ചം കാണുമെന്നുള്ള ധനകാര്യദർശിയുടെ ഊഹം ശരിയല്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) ബഡ്ജറ് ഡഫിസിറ് ബഡ്ജറായിക്കൂടെയെന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): ഇതു തൊറാതെ നുപറയാൻ പോകുകയാണ്.

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MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Nominal surplus ബഡ്ജറിൽ കാണിച്ച എന്നേയുള്ളൂ.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Nomin എന്നുപറയുന്നതിനെ എങ്ങനെ വിചാരിച്ചാലും ദുഷ്യമില്ലെന്നാണോ പറയുന്നത്? നാമിനൽ എന്നുവച്ചാൽ അർത്ഥമെന്താണ്. ഇതുതെറ്റാണെന്നു സ്ഥാപിക്കുവാനാണെന്റെ ശ്രമം.

സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനംനിമിത്തം വരവിനം കുറയുമെന്നു സാധാരണമാക്കുപോലും ബോദ്ധ്യമായിട്ടുള്ള പല്ലേ ഇനങ്ങളിലും ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറി അടുത്തവർഷം കൂടുതൽ വരവുകാണുമെന്നു പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു് അടിസ്ഥാനരഹിതമാണു്. ഫ ഫ ൦ ൻ ൽ ഫാറസ്റ്റിൽനിന്നും ൫൦,൦൦൦ രൂപയും സ്റ്റാമ്പ്ഇനത്തിൽനിന്നും ൩,൦൦൦ രൂപയും മാക്കറിനത്തിൽനിന്നും ൧,൦൦൦ രൂപയും അധികമായനികുതിയിൽനിന്നും ൨൦,൧൦൦ രൂപയും ഫ ഫ ൦ ൻ-ൽ കൂടുതൽ കിട്ടുമെന്നുള്ള പ്രതീക്ഷ ശരിയാണെന്നു തീരെ വിശ്വസിക്കാവുന്നതല്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംഗതികളിൽനിന്നും ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് സുസ്ഥിരമായ കോശസ്ഥിതിയെ അല്ല കാണിക്കുന്നതു് എന്നാണു വിചാരിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നതു്. കായ്ക്ഷമതക്കു് ഹാനികരമല്ലാത്തവിധത്തിൽ വ്യയനിയന്ത്രണം ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു് അത്യന്താപേക്ഷിതമാണെന്നു റിട്രഞ്ച്മെൻറ് കമ്മറി ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ഉപദേശിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഈ ഉപദേശത്തെ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ശരിയായി സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടില്ല എന്നു കാണുന്നതിൽ മനസ്താപിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. റിട്രഞ്ചുമെൻറ്കമ്മറി സാമ്പത്തികസ്ഥിതിഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി ഗാഢമായി ആലോചിച്ചശേഷം ഫ ൫,൯ ൦,൦൦൦ രൂപ കുറയ്ക്കാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടു ശുപാർശചെയ്തിട്ടു് ഇതുപര്യന്തം ൯,൯൫,൫൪൫ രൂപമാത്രമെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു കുറയ്ക്കുവാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളൂ. ജനസംഖ്യയുടെ വർദ്ധനവും സാമ്പത്തികസ്ഥിതിഗതികളും ശരിയായി പര്യാലോചിച്ചശേഷം സെൻസസ്കമ്മീഷണർ സമർപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വിജ്ഞാനപ്രദമായ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പറയുന്നു.

"The recorded increase in the population is 27·2 per cent. Under the existing conditions, extension of cultivation, though possible to some extent, cannot afford much relief, if the present rate of the growth of population continues. The extreme sub division and fragmentation of agricultural holdings, 95 per cent. of which are uneconomic, and the chronic indebtedness of cultivators render progress in revolutionising the methods of agriculture slow and even any increase in production that may be brought about by improved methods of cultivation, is not likely to keep pace with the growth of population. 54·3 per cent. of the total population is supported by agriculture. But the standard of life is very low and to raise the standard what is really necessary is to draw away from agriculture a portion of the population now depending upon it. This could only be done by the development of industry and commerce."

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ഇതിൽനിന്നും കച്ചവടഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനേറയും വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനേറയും ക്രമപ്രവൃദ്ധമായ ഉൽക്കർഷത്തെ പ്രത്യേകംശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യം പ്രസ്പഷ്ടമാകുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളത് & ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ കൂടുതൽ കാര്യക്ഷമമാക്കുന്നതിനും ഇൻറർനേ ട്ടൽ കൺവെൻഷൺവ്യവസ്ഥകളെ നവീകരിക്കുന്നതിനുമായി ഗവണ്മെൻറ് പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണം എന്നാണ്. കസ്റ്റംഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനേറയും കച്ചവടവകുപ്പിനേറയും ഭരണത്തെ കൂടുതൽ നിപുണമാക്കുന്നതിന്ന് എക്സ്പ്ലസ്വകുപ്പിൽ അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ ഗ്രേഡിൽ പ്രത്യേകം ഒരുദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ നിയമിക്കണം അതില്ലാത്തപക്ഷം കച്ചവടവും വ്യവസായവും നാശോന്മുഖമായി ഭവിക്കുന്നതാണ്. തന്നിമിത്തം ഗവണ്മെൻറിനും ആദായത്തിൽ സാരമായ കുറവുണ്ടാകും.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): ഈ സംഗതിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് എക്കണോമിക്ക് ഡവലപ്പ്മെൻറ് എൻകയറിക്കമ്മറി ശുപാർശചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി അറിയാമോ?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): അതിനെപ്പറ്റി സൂക്ഷ്മമായി എനിക്കറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

നൂതനമായ കൃഷി സമ്പ്രദായങ്ങൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനും വമ്പിച്ച കൃഷിയെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിനുമായിട്ടാണ് അഗ്രിക്കൽച്ചറൽ ലോൺ വിതരണംചെയ്യേണ്ടത്. കൃഷിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ച ശരിയായിട്ടുള്ള ജ്ഞാനമോ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമോ ഇല്ലാത്ത റവന്യൂഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് മുഖേനയാണ് ഇപ്പോൾ ഈ ലോൺ വിതരണം ചെയ്യപ്പെട്ടുവരുന്നത്. ഈ ലോൺവിതരണംകൊണ്ട് ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഫലം ജനങ്ങൾക്കുണ്ടാകുന്നില്ല. സാമ്പത്തികവിഷമംകൊണ്ടു ജനങ്ങൾ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു വശംവദരാകുന്നവരെ സഹായിക്കാനും നിയമസഭാമെമ്പറന്മാരെ പ്രീണിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനായിട്ടു കൃഷിയോടു അശേഷം ബന്ധപ്പെടാത്ത കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കുപോലും അഗ്രിക്കൽച്ചറൽ ലോൺ വിതരണംചെയ്യുവരുന്നു. പാശ്ചാത്യരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽപോയി ഉന്നതവിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നടത്തുന്നതിനും ചിലപ്പോൾ വസ്തുക്കളിൽ കയ്യാല ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനെന്നുള്ള ഭാവേന കടം പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനും അഗ്രിക്കൽച്ചറൽലോൺ നാംകിവരുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായം തീരെ ആശാസ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല. ഇങ്ങനെ കൃഷിയുടെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമില്ലാത്ത റവന്യൂഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും ഈവിധം ലോൺ വിതരണംചെയ്യുന്നതു

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[Mr. T. P. Velayudhan Pillai.]

കൊണ്ട് ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഫലം പ്രജകൾക്ക് അനുഭവിക്കുന്നതിന സാധിക്കുന്നില്ല. അതിനാൽ അഗ്രിക്കൽച്ചറൽലോൺ വിതരണംചെയ്യുന്നതിനുള്ള മുമതല ഉടനടി കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്ക കൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണ് എൻെറ അഭിപ്രായം. കൃഷി നടത്തുന്നതിന ശരിയായ ജലസേചനപദ്ധതി ഇല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ട് കൃഷിക്കാക്ക വളരെ നഷ്ടം ഉണ്ടാകുകയും ചെയ്യുന്ന കൃഷിതന്നെയും നഷ്ടപ്പെടുകയുംചെയ്യുന്നു. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ അസാധാരണമായ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കംനിമിത്തം പൊതുവേയും വിശിഷ്യാ എൻെറ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിലും നഷ്ടം വൽമാനമായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ സങ്കടപരിഹാരവിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ പ്രത്യേകമായ ദൃഷ്ടി പതിയേണ്ടതു് അത്യന്താപേക്ഷിതമായിട്ടുള്ളതാകുന്നു. ജനങ്ങൾക്ക കൃഷിസൌകര്യവും ജലസേചനവും ശരിയായി നൽകാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു ജലസേചനപദ്ധതിയുടെ മേൽനോട്ടംകൂടി കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനു വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കണം.

മെഡിക്കൽ, ഹെൽത്ത, സാനിട്ടറി എന്നീ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളെ ഒരുമിച്ചുചേർക്കുന്നതിനെക്കുറിച്ച എൻെറ മുൻഗാമികൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ അനുമോദിക്കയുണ്ടായി. ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച എനിക്കുള്ള ശക്തിയായ എതിരഭിപ്രായത്തെ ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല മെഡിക്കൽഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറ ഭരണം ശരിയാക്കുന്നതിനു തന്നെയും ഒന്നിലധികം ആളുകളെ പരിശോധനാധികൃതന്മാരായി നിയമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ സ്ഥിതിക്ക പ്രത്യേകഭരണത്തിലിരിക്കുന്ന ഭിന്നഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകൾകൂടി മെഡിക്കൽവകുപ്പിനോടു ചേർക്കുന്നപക്ഷം മൂന്നു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനേറയും ഭരണത്തിലുള്ള കാര്യക്ഷമതയ്ക്കും ഫലദായകത്വത്തിനും ഹാനികരമായിതീരുന്നതാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ പ്രത്യേകമായിരിക്കുന്ന മൂന്ന ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനേയും ഒരേ അവസരത്തിൽ ഒരുമിച്ചുചേർക്കുന്നതു കാര്യക്ഷമതയ്ക്ക നല്ലതല്ല.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanachery cum Peermade*): ഹെൽത്ത്, സാനിട്ടറി എന്നീ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറധ്യക്ഷന്മാരെ ഇല്ലാതാക്കിയിട്ടല്ലെ മൂന്നു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറും ഒരുമിച്ചുചേർക്കുന്നതു്?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): ആ സംഗതിയിൽ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വം വഹിക്കുന്ന ഭരണമേധാവിയോടുതന്നെ ചോദിക്കണം.

അതിനാൽ തല്ക്കാലത്തേക്ക ഹെൽത്ത്, സാനിട്ടറി എന്നീ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളെ ഒന്നാക്കുകയും മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് മുമ്പിലത്തെപ്പോലെ പ്രത്യേകമായിരിക്കുകയുംവേണം. ഈ നിലയിൽ പരീക്ഷിച്ചുനോക്കിയിട്ടു നൂതനനയം വിജയപ്രദമാണെന്നു ബോധ്യമാകുന്നു

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എങ്കിൽമാത്രമെ മൂന്ന ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളേയും ഒരുമിച്ചുചേക്കാൻ പാടുള്ളൂ.

ഇപ്പോൾ തീരെ ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവുമില്ലാത്തതും ആയ ചില ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും അനാവശ്യമായി സംരക്ഷിച്ചുപോരുന്നതിനെ ഉടനടി നിറുത്തൽചെയ്യണം. ഉദാഹരണമായി ആക്കിയാളജിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ പറയാവുന്നതാണ്. മുമ്പിലത്തെ കൌൺസിലിൽ ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി വാദപ്രതിവാദംചെയ്തപ്പോൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനവേണ്ടി ഉള്ളൂർ മി. എസ്. പരമേശ്വരയ്യർ നൽകിയിട്ടുള്ള മറുപടി ഇവിടെ ഉദ്ധരിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

"It is not the idea of Government to retain the Archaeological Department as a permanent institution. There are some items of work remaining to be done. The loan of the services of a new officer from British India is being obtained for a period of three years and it is expected that all the work remaining to be done will be completed during these years."

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanachery cum Peermade II*) : അപ്പോൾ വാദപ്രതിവാദം ഉണ്ടായതു് എന്തിനെസംബന്ധിച്ചാണു്?

MR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു നിറ്ത്തൽചെയ്യേണ്ടതിൻെറ ആവശ്യകതയെപ്പറ്റിയാണു് വാദപ്രതിവാദമുണ്ടായതു്.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) :May I know.....

PRESIDENT: Does the member want to ask a question?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : May I ask in English?

PRESIDENT: I don't mind. But please stand up when you ask.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു നൽകിയിട്ടുള്ള മറുപടിയെ പ്രായോഗികമാക്കുന്നതിനു് ഇതുവരെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ശ്രമിക്കാത്തതിൽ മനസ്ഥാപമുണ്ടു്. മൂന്നുവർഷത്തിനകം ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു നിറുത്തിക്കൊള്ളാമെന്ന പ്രതിജ്ഞചെയ്തിട്ടു് ഇപ്പോൾ പതിനൊന്നു വർഷമായി. ഇനിയും വല്ലുജോലിയും ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും ചെയ്യുതീക്കാനുണ്ടെങ്കിൽതന്നെയും കൂറേറരെ മുമതലപ്പെടുത്തിയാൽ അനാവശ്യ ധനവ്യയം കൂടാതെ ആജോലിക്കൂടി ചെയ്യുതീക്കുന്നതാണു്. ഈ ഇനത്തിൽ നീക്കിവച്ചിട്ടുള്ള തുക ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു് മിച്ചംവരികയും ചെയ്യും അതിനാൽ ഈ സാമ്പത്തിക അധഃപതനകാലത്തു് ഇങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു് ഏറ്റവും വളരെ അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്.

വന്യ മൃഗസംരക്ഷകൻ (വാർഡൻ ആഫ് ഗെയിംസ്സ്) എന്നൊരുദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ നിയമിക്കാൻപോകുന്നു എന്നുള്ള സംഗതിയെ സംബന്ധി

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ച്ച് ഈ വശത്തുള്ള മെമ്പറന്മാരിൽ പലരും അതൃപ്തി പ്രദർശിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ സഭയുടെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ ഒരു പ്രധാനസംഗതികൊണ്ടു വരേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ട്. അനേകലക്ഷം അധഃകൃതരുടെ സംരക്ഷണത്തിനും അവരുടെ ഉല്ലർഷത്തിനും വേണ്ടിശ്രമിക്കുന്നതിനായി നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള അധഃകൃത സംരക്ഷകന് പ്രതിവർഷം ർൻ ശ്രു രൂപയാണ് അലവൻസ്സായി നൽകിയിട്ടുള്ളതെന്ന് ബഡ്ജറിൽനിന്നും നമുക്കുകാണാം. അധഃകൃതസംരക്ഷകന് വന്യമൃഗസംരക്ഷകനെ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന തുകയെക്കാൾ കേവലം തുച്ഛമായ ഒരു തുകയാണ് കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നത്.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanachery cum Peermade II*): പക്ഷിമൃഗാദികളുടെ എണ്ണം അൻപതുലക്ഷത്തിൽ അധികം ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുമോ?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): അവയുടെ കണക്കു ശരിയായി തിട്ടപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടില്ല.

ന്യൂനപക്ഷ രൂപയാണ് വാർഡൻ ആഫ്ഗെയിംസ്സ് എന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന് പ്രതിവർഷം കൊടുക്കാൻ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഇതു ഒരിക്കലും അശാസ്ത്രമായ ഒരു നയമല്ല. ഈ വിഭാഗത്തിലുള്ള ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കേണ്ട യാതൊരാവശ്യവും ഇല്ല.

മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അശേഷം വിശ്വാസമില്ലാതെയാണിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഉദാഹരണമായി പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഉന്നതസ്ഥാനങ്ങളിലിരിക്കുന്ന ഭരണാധികാരികൾക്കുപോലും മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറ ആവശ്യം നേരിടുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ മിഷൻ ആശുപത്രികളെയാണ് അഭയംപ്രാപിച്ചുവരുന്നത്. ഇത് മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനോടുള്ള വിശ്വാസമില്ലായ്മയെയാണ് കാണിക്കുന്നത്. ഇത് ഒരു ധർമ്മസ്ഥാപനത്തിൻെറ ശോഭനേച്ഛയെ കരുതി വിദഗ്ധന്മാരായ ഡാക്ടർമാരെ നിയമിക്കയും ആവശ്യമുള്ള മരുന്നുകൾ സംഭരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതിന് ഗവൺമെൻറിന് സൗകര്യമില്ലാത്തപക്ഷം ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ ഉടൻതന്നെ നിർത്തി ഇംഗ്ലണ്ടുമുതലായ രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽചെയ്യുന്നമാതിരി പ്രൈവറ്റ് ഡാക്ടർമാർക്കു ഗ്രാൻറുകൊടുത്തു നടത്തുന്നതാണ് ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കൂടുതൽ ക്ഷേമകരവും ഗവൺമെൻറിന് ആദായകരവും ആയിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha cum Devicolam*): അയുർവേദഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ പരിഷ്കരിച്ചാൽ കൂടുതൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു പ്രയോജനകരമാകയില്ലേ?

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MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആരോഗ്യ സംരക്ഷണത്തിനുവേണ്ടി നടത്തപ്പെടുന്ന എല്ലാ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളേയും യഥായോഗ്യം പരിഷ്കരിച്ച് നല്ലനിലയിൽ ആക്കണം.

എന്റെ പ്രസംഗം അവസാനിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുമുമ്പായി ദേവസ്വത്തിനെസംബന്ധിച്ച് ഞാൻ രണ്ടുവാക്കു പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. റവന്യൂ ദേവസ്വം ഡിഭജനകാലത്തു പ്രസിദ്ധീകൃതമായ പ്രസ്സ് കമ്മൂണിക്ക് അഞ്ചാംവകുപ്പിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പറയുന്നു.

"It has already been granted that the current cash value of the determinate income of the Devaswoms from their landed properties amounts to 16 lakhs. This figure bears roughly the proportion of 40 per cent to the present land revenue of the State, and to this extent at least the Devaswoms are entitled to a guarantee from the Government.

ഇതിൽനിന്നും പതിനാറുലക്ഷം രൂപായിൽകുറയാതെ പ്രതിവർഷം ദേവസ്വംവസ്തുക്കളുടെ ആദായം എന്നനിലയിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നു ദേവസ്വം ഫണ്ടിലേക്ക് നൽകുംഎന്ന പ്രതിജ്ഞചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്ന് കാണുന്നു. ഫ്രാൻ-ലെ ബഡ്ജറിൽ പതിനാലുലക്ഷത്തിമുപ്പത്തെണ്ണായിരത്തി എണ്ണൂറുരൂപാമാത്രമെ ഈ ഇനത്തിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നുള്ളു. ഇങ്ങനെ ആയിരുന്നാൽ പതിനാറുലക്ഷം എന്നുള്ള പ്രതിജ്ഞയുടെ പ്രാബല്യം കുറഞ്ഞുകുറഞ്ഞു കാലാന്തരത്തിൽ ദേവസ്വത്തിലേക്ക് വളരെ ഹാനികരമായി തീരുമെന്നുള്ളതുനിസ്തർക്കമാകുന്നു. ഇതിനെസംബന്ധിച്ച് മാന്യമെമ്പർ മി. ററി. പി. രാമസുബ്ബയ്യർ പുറപ്പെടുവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഉപദേശസൂചനപ്രകാരം ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയായ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ പതിയേണമെന്ന് ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

PRESIDENT : Your time is up. I would like to give my ruling on the point of order raised by Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai. Under Standing order 19, a member may ask a speaker a question to elicit information or opinion.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanacherry cum Peermade II*) : ഈരാജ്യവാസികളായ ജനസഞ്ചയത്തിന്റെ ഹൃദയാകാശത്തിൽ അസ്വാമാന്യവും സങ്കടകരവുമായ മേഘങ്ങളെ ഉത്ഭവിപ്പിക്കുന്നതായ ഫ്രാൻ-ാമാണ്ടത്തെ ആയവ്യയഗണനപത്രിക കാണ്മാൻ ഇടയായതിൽ എനിക്ക് അതിയായ സങ്കടമാണ് ഉള്ളത്. ഉദ്യോഗഗൗരവമാകുന്ന ഒരു യന്ത്രത്തിന്റെ നിയന്ത്രണത്താൽ ഏതൊ ചില കണക്കുകളെ ഇണക്കിക്കൂട്ടിവച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നല്ലാതെ ജനസാമാന്യത്തിന്റെ രക്ഷയെ കരുതിലവലേശവും പ്രവൃത്തിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ തല്ക്കാലസ്ഥിതിയെ ഒന്നുകൂടി ശക്തമാക്കി പരിപാലിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിന് വേണ്ടിടത്തോളം പണമുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനായി ചില തുകടംമറി

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[Mr. R. Raman Pillai.]

ച്ചിലും മറും വരുത്തി ദേവന്റെ പണംകൂടെ ഇപ്പോൾ അപഹരിച്ചുക ഴഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. മനുഷ്യന്റെകാര്യം എല്ലാം ഉപേക്ഷിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ആവശ്യമില്ലാതെ കാട്ടിൽകിടക്കുന്ന പക്ഷിമൃഗാദികളുടെ സംരക്ഷണം അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നു കരുതിക്കൊണ്ട് ഈ സ്ഥാപനത്തിന്റെതന്നെയും അറിവും സമ്മതവുംകൂടാതെ ആറായിരത്തിൽചിലപാനം രൂപാ കാട്ടുജന്തുക്കളുടെ സംരക്ഷണത്തിനുവേണ്ടി വിനിയോഗിക്കുവാൻ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. കരം കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെ ജനസഞ്ചയം ഒന്നാകെ വലയുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിന് ഓരോ താലൂക്കുകളിലുംനിന്ന് കാണാവുന്നതാണു്. അതിനെക്കുറിച്ചു യാതൊരു നോട്ടവുമില്ല. ഈ ഉദ്യോഗപിശാചു—സക്കാർ ഉദ്യോഗംകിട്ടിയാൽ പിന്നെ മനുഷ്യന്റെ നിലമാറീട്ട് വേറെ ഏതോ ഒരു ശക്തി വന്നു പിടിക്കുടിയിരിക്കുന്ന—ഒരു സത്വത്തിനെപ്പോലെ തോന്നിപ്പോകുന്നു. ജനങ്ങളുടെകാര്യം അവർ ലവലേശം നോക്കുന്നില്ല. കടംകൊണ്ടു വലഞ്ഞിട്ടു വർത്തമാനപത്രങ്ങളിലും കോടതികളുടെ ഭിത്തികളിലും പരസ്യങ്ങൾ ലക്ഷക്കണക്കിനു കാണുന്നു. ഇതിനൊരു പരിഹാരം എന്താണുവേണ്ടതെന്ന് നമ്മുടെ ധർമ്മരാജ്യഗവണ്മെൻറിന് ഇതുവരെ ആലോചിക്കുവാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല. ഈ വക സംഗതികളൊന്നുംതന്നെ നമ്മുടെ അന്നദാതാവായ പൊന്നുതിരുമേനിയെ ആരും അറിയിക്കുന്നില്ല. തിരുമനസ്സിലെ സന്ദേശം വായിച്ചുനോക്കുന്ന ഏതൊരുപൌരനും തന്റെ പ്രജകളുടെനേരെയുള്ള വാത്സല്യം അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ഹൃദയത്തിൽ എത്രമാത്രം ഉണ്ടെന്നു് പ്രത്യക്ഷമായി കാണാവുന്നതാണു്. ഇങ്ങനെയിരിക്കുന്ന മഹാത്മാവിനോട് ഈ സാധുജനങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടാവസ്ഥയെ അറിയിക്കുന്നതിന് നമ്മുടെവശത്തു് ആളുകൾ ഇല്ലെന്നു പറയുന്നതിൽ പരിഭവിക്കയില്ലെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. ഭവനഗർ രാജ്യത്തിൽ കടക്കാരായ സാധുജനങ്ങളുടെ സംരക്ഷണയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി പല സംഗതികളും ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ളതായിവർത്തമാനപത്രങ്ങളിൽകാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു അതൊന്നും ചെയ്യുന്നില്ല. പതിനഞ്ചുലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപാ പ്രതിവർഷം സക്കാർ ചിലവിൽനിന്നും കുറക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട വ്യവസ്ഥകൾ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ ചില യോഗ്യന്മാരും ചില അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുംകൂടി ഉണ്ടാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അതിൽനിന്നു ഒറ്റ ഫൈപോലും ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും കുറച്ചിട്ടില്ല വെറും സാധുക്കളായ ചില ശിപായികളെ മാത്രമെ കുറച്ചിട്ടുള്ളൂ. വലിയ ആളുകളുടെ ശമ്പളം ഒന്നും കുറച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ഉന്നതസ്ഥാനങ്ങളിലുള്ളവരുടെ ശമ്പളം കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നു

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ള്ള നിർദ്ദേശം കണ്ടാൽ അതിന് സാധുക്കളായ ഇമസ്തമാരേയും ശിപായിമാരേയുമാണ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നത്. കടംകൊണ്ട അനവധി ആളുകളുടെ സ്വത്തുക്കൾ ലേലത്തിൽപോകുന്നു. ഈവക സംഗതികളൊന്നും പതിനായിരവും ഇരുപതിനായിരവും പ്രതിവർഷം വാങ്ങുന്നവർക്ക് അറിയാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ല. ഉൾനാടുകളിലെ ജനങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിക്കുന്ന വിഷമങ്ങളെ കാണുന്ന ഒരുവൻ സങ്കടപ്പെടാതെയിരിക്കയില്ല. ശിപായിമാരുടേയും മറ്റും ശമ്പളം കുറയ്ക്കാമെങ്കിലും പോലീസ്സും എക്സൈസും കുറക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ദേവനെ അന്വേഷിച്ച് കാട്ടകടന്നു പോകുന്നവക്ക് മുമ്പ് എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ സഹായംകൊണ്ട് ഒരു ഷാപ്പുമാത്രമെ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നുള്ളു. ഇപ്പോൾ അവിടെ നാലു ഷാപ്പുകൾ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ സംഗതി തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ പ്രധാന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെല്ലാം കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതു ഞങ്ങളുടെ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ടതാണ് എന്തുചെയ്യട്ടെ എന്നുപറഞ്ഞു ഒഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളവർ ഈ സഭസ്സിൽതന്നെ കാണും. അഞ്ഞൂറുരൂപാ ശമ്പളത്തിൽ ഇരുന്ന് പെൻഷൻവാങ്ങിയ മാന്യന്മാരും കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. ശബരിമലശാസ്താവിന്റെ തെക്കും വടക്കുമായിട്ടാണ് ഈ നാലു ഷാപ്പും ഇരിക്കുന്നത്,

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): ഭക്തന്മാർക്കു ഷാപ്പുകൊണ്ട് പ്രതിബന്ധം ഉണ്ടാകുമോ?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade II*): സൌകര്യമാണ് ഇതിനൊക്കെ കാരണമായിത്തീരുന്നത്. സാധനങ്ങളെക്കാണുമ്പോൾ സ്വാഭാവികമായിത്തന്നെ ഒരു പ്രേരണ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതാണ്. സിഗ്രറുപയോഗിക്കുന്നവന് അതു കാണുമ്പോൾ ഉപയോഗിക്കണമെന്നുതന്നെ തോന്നും. എക്സൈസ്സ് കമ്മീഷണർ അറിഞ്ഞോ അറിയാതെയോ ഈ സംഗതി കൌൺസിലിൽ തന്നെ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. പ്രജാസഭയിലും പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിന് ഇതുവരെ യാതൊരു പരിഹാരവും ഉണ്ടാക്കിയിട്ടില്ല. പണം ഉണ്ടാക്കാനും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ രക്ഷക്കും ആയിട്ടാണ് ഗവണ്മെൻറുകാര്യങ്ങൾ പ്രവൃത്തിച്ചുവരുന്നത്. സാധാരണയായി പി. ഡബ്ലൂ. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും ചിലവുചെയ്യുവരുന്നതിൽനിന്നും രണ്ടു ലക്ഷം രൂപാ കുറച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ എണ്ണം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുക, കൂടുതൽ ശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കുക പുതിയ സ്ഥാനങ്ങളുണ്ടാക്കുക, എന്നീരീതിയിലാണും പ്രവൃത്തിച്ചുവരുന്നത്. സാധുക്കളായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ കാലക്ഷേപത്തിനു തക്കവിധത്തിലെങ്കിലും ശമ്പ

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[Mr. R. Raman Pillai.]

ളം കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. വനങ്ങളിലെ മൃഗങ്ങൾക്കു ഇപ്പോൾ യാതൊരു തടസ്സവും ഇല്ലാതെയാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. അതു കൊണ്ടാണു് അവയെസംരക്ഷിക്കാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഈ നയത്തിനു എന്തെങ്കിലും ഭേദഗതി ഉണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്. എട്ടും പത്തും ലക്ഷം രൂപാ സ്വത്തുള്ളയോഗ്യന്മാർ അയ്യായിരവും പതിനായിരവും രൂപക്കുവേണ്ടി ജയിലിൽ പോകുന്നു. ഇതിനു് ഒരു പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ചുമതലയാണു്. ക്ഷ ഛ ൦ ൪-ൽ ഇരുപത്തെണ്ണായിരം രൂപക്കു വിലയുള്ള ഒരു വസ്തു ഈ കഴിഞ്ഞ ഇടവമാസത്തിൽ ൧൦൦൦൦ രൂപാക്കു ലേലത്തിൽ പോയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ തന്നെ തുടർന്നുപോകയാണെങ്കിൽ ജനങ്ങൾ നശിച്ചുപോകാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ജനങ്ങൾ നശിച്ചാൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിലേക്കു കരംതരുന്നതു പിന്നെ ആരാണു്? കള്ള്, ചാരായം, കഞ്ചാവു, കറുപ്പു, വാഹനം എന്നീസാധനങ്ങൾക്കു ജനങ്ങൾ കരം കൊടുക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിനൊക്കെ ഒരു പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതു അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്. പുകയില ഇനത്തിൽ എത്ര ലക്ഷംരൂപയാണു ആണ്ടുതോറും തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനു പുറത്തു പോയിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു? നാഞ്ചിനാട്ടു പുകയിലകൃഷിനടത്തി ഇതിനൊരു പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കാവുന്നതാണു്.

മോട്ടാർകാർ, ബസ്സു ഇവയ്ക്കുള്ള പെട്രോളിനും മറ്റു സാധനസാമഗ്രികൾക്കും വേണ്ടി എത്രയോലക്ഷം രൂപാ ഈ രാജ്യത്തിനുവെളിയിൽ പോകുന്നുണ്ടു തെക്കും വടക്കും പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ തീവണ്ടിഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയാൽ ഈ നഷ്ടം സാരമായി പരിഹരിക്കാവുന്നതാണു്. അതുകൂടാതെ ചെങ്കോട്ട കൊല്ലം റെയിൽവെനിമിത്തമുള്ള നഷ്ടത്തെ പരിഹരിക്കയും ചെയ്യാം. എന്നാൽ തീവണ്ടി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതു ഇതുവരെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയതുപോലെയാണെങ്കിൽ അതില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നതാണു നല്ലതു്. സ്റ്റേറ്റുറെയിൽവെ ഉണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നാണു എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം ഇലട്രിക്ക് സ്കീമിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഈ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ പത്തെഴുപതുലക്ഷം രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ഈ പ്രവൃത്തിയെ ചിലർ അനുമോദിക്കുകയും ചിലർ പ്രതികൂലിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. അതുപോലെ അത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു കാര്യമാണു് റെയിൽവേകാര്യവും. ഈ നാട്ടുകാരായ നിരവധി ക്കുലിവേലക്കാർക്കു അതു ഒരു കാലക്ഷേപമാർഗ്ഗമായും തീരുന്നതാണു്. മൂന്നോ മൂന്നരയോ ശതമാനം പലിശകൊടുത്താൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ധാരാളം കടം കിട്ടും. ബാങ്കുകളിൽ പണം കെട്ടിവച്ചിരിക്കുകയാണു് ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു കടം എത്രവേണമെങ്കിലും ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ കിട്ടുന്നതാണു്. ഇങ്ങിനെ ജനങ്ങളു

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ടെ തൽക്കാല വിഷമത്തിനു പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടു പ്രത്യേകമായി ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ദേവസ്വം ചേരിക്കൽ വസ്തുക്കൾക്കു കരം നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ചേരിക്കൽ ജന്മവസ്തുക്കൾക്കു അതിൽ നിന്നും പകുതിയായിട്ടാണു് കരം വച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. റബ്ബർ കൃഷിചെയ്യുവരുന്ന പണ്ടാരപ്പാട്ടം വസ്തുക്കൾക്കു് ഉണ്ടായിരുന്ന കരം രണ്ടുരൂപായിൽ നിന്നും ഒരു രൂപയായി ഗവണ്മെൻറു കുറച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ദേവസ്വം ചേരിക്കൽ വസ്തുക്കൾക്കു് അങ്ങനെ കുറച്ചുകാണുന്നില്ല. ഒരു കൂട്ടർക്കു സൌജന്യം കാണിക്കയും വേറൊരുകൂട്ടർക്കു് ആ സൌജന്യം കാണിക്കാതെ പക്ഷപാതബുദ്ധികാണിക്കയും ചെയ്യുവരുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഗവണ്മെൻറു് ഗാഢമായി ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്.

ഏല കൃഷിയുടെ വിളവു് വളരെ കുറവായിരിക്കുന്നു. അതിൻറെ വിലയും വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞുപോയിട്ടുണ്ടു്. തന്നിമിത്തം ഏലം വില്പനയില്ലാതെയിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. അവർ വിദേശികളാണെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചു് അക്കാര്യം ആലോചിക്കാതിരിക്കുവാൻ പാടുള്ളതല്ല. അവരും ശരിയായികരം തരുന്നവരാണു്. അതിനാൽ അവരുടെ കരം കന്നിമാസത്തിൽനിന്നു് വൃശ്ചികമാസംവരെ നീട്ടിക്കൊടുക്കണം. അവരുടെ വസ്തുക്കൾ ലേലത്തിൽ വച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതിൽ നിന്നു് ഗവണ്മെൻറു് കഴിയുന്നവിധത്തിൽ സമാധാനം ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കണം.

കടം കൊണ്ടു വലഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്ന ജനങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടാവസ്ഥകൾ മറ്റു രാജ്യങ്ങളിലെഗവണ്മെൻറുകളും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ ഒരു പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നു നിർദ്ദേശിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് ഞാൻ തൽക്കാലം വിരമിക്കുന്നു.

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANIKAR (*Shertala II*) : I cannot congratulate the Financial Secretary in having presented to this House a budget in which he says there will be a nominal surplus. There is no virtue in having a surplus budget. It should not be understood by the House that he is presenting a surplus budget. When once a surplus budget is presumed to be presented to this House that surplus budget ought really to be a surplus budget and not a deficit budget under the cloak of a surplus budget.

Among the principal items of revenue it is estimated that Rs. 36 lakhs and odd will be the revenue derived from tax on land. That is an estimate which is far above the revised estimate for the current year. At a time when there is financial stringency, when the people are clamouring that a portion of the land tax should be remitted, when the staple commodities of the land fetch not even 25 per cent of their proper values, for the Financial Secretary to expect that the income

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[Mr. Pottayil S. Krishna Panikar]

derived from land revenue proper would be very much in excess of the revised estimate for the current year, it is nothing but the lack of imagination on the part of those who are responsible for preparing such a budget. Another item of revenue which is expected under income tax is also presumed to be on the increase. During these days of economic distress, when trade is dull, when the earning capacity of the people at large is very much lower than what it was, how could an increase in the income be expected under the head of income tax. So, the budget has to be accepted with a certain amount of caution. What I really want to bring to the notice of this House is that even though this budget seems to be a surplus budget it is not really a surplus budget but is a budget which will turn out in the end to be a deficit budget. There is no special virtue in regard to such a surplus budget. One can understand if it is a deficit budget provided proper means of curtailing the expenditure are attended to.

From a reading of the budget it can be seen that there is lack of constructive programme in regard to various items of expenditure.

With regard to the Public Works Department there seems to be absolutely no constructive programme. Works which were once entered in the Budget estimate seem not to be taken notice of in the subsequent budgets and the funds allotted for such works are almost always systematically neglected and not entered in the coming year's budget. For instance, the roads which were once sanctioned for the taluk of Shertala were once provided for. In the budget that is now presented to this House no such item of expenditure is shown. If there was a consistent policy before the Government, naturally every item which once found a place in the budget will find a place in the subsequent year's budgets as well. Also when there was the idea of opening the Alleppey-Shertallai canal and lands were acquired and a portion of the canal was dug, the Government abandoned the idea of constructing the canal and as a consequence the Alleppey-Aroor road was begun. A network of other roads were also thought of. In subsequent years that idea was given up by Government and now the roads, which were once opened in view of the scheme then entertained by the Government, are practically neglected.

They are not available for use by the public for want of proper bridges and culverts ; and I fail to see any provision made even to complete the works already started. When that is the attitude of Government in regard to public works, I cannot see why I should congratulate the Financial Secretary for the Budget he has presented.

Another point which I want to bring to the notice of the House is the question of appointment of a Trade Agent. Provision was made for it in the last year's budget ; but that was allowed to lapse. I find that though there is provision for it in the Budget for 1109, the provision is only 50 per cent. of the provision made in the Budget for 1108. From this we can more or less judge the interest that the Government have in the appointment of a Trade Agent. Sir, during the present economic depression it is very difficult for Travancore products to get

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suitable markets; and therefore a Trade Agent in Europe would be of immense use to the Travancore producer. I therefore submit that this is a matter which should engage the attention of the Government. Unfortunately it is in such important matters that the Government allow provisions in the Budget to lapse.

With regard to the Agriculture and the Industries Departments I have just to speak a few words. The Agricultural Department, as at present constituted, is of no practical use to the people. An experimental cocoanut farm at Alleppey or a cattle farm at Perukadai and one or two other such institutions are not going to be of any very great use to the practical agriculturists. A small provision of about two lakhs of rupees for the Agricultural Department cannot be of any real use to the people. Unless the Government are prepared to allot more money to this department it is better that it is abolished. Its utility, judged from the value derived for the money spent on it, is practically nothing.

The Industries Department also is in the same plight as the Agricultural Department. No doubt the department has a good number of experts; and I gather from the Financial Secretary's speech that another man is to be sent out to get trained as an expert. Sir, in Travancore there is no dearth of experts. The real difficulty is that even the Government do not allot sufficient funds for affording work to their own experts. I would therefore suggest that more funds may be allotted to these nation-building departments.

Statement made by the President.

PRESIDENT: In order to meet the difficulty suggested by Mr. Damodaran Asan this morning, in regard to his question, I propose *for this session only*, to go back to the old practice and to have printed and placed on the table statements which the members want to be laid on the table. In future sessions, questions asking for such statements will be treated as unstarred questions. For this session alone, such statements will be laid on the table and members who ask for such statements will be allowed to put supplementary questions on such answers.

There is also one minor point of order. I notice that some members pass between the Chair and the speaker addressing the House. That is out of order.

The Assembly adjourned at 4-20 P. M.

K. MADHAVA KURUP,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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